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HISTORY OF IRETON

(IOWA)

1882 - 1961



GENERAL HENRY IRETON

1610 - 1651

**Published on the occasion of
the Ireton Diamond Jubilee**

INTRODUCTION AND DEDICATION

This year we celebrate 75 years of progress, we pause to give thanks and reminisce a bit before we hurry into the future.

1936976

We dedicate this book to our pioneers who paved the way for our present life in Ireton so that we can truthfully say, "Ireton - a good place to live - a good place to worship". This little history will bring many memories, both sad and happy to our senior folks and give our younger generation a glimpse into the lives of their grandparents and how they overcame their trials and hardships with such strength that they well deserve to be called "Pioneers". Many worthy biographies are missing from these pages, for space can only allow a small cross-section of the many who should be recognized.

The Booster Club wishes to express sincere thanks to all the people of the Ireton community for their fine cooperation; to thank all the various committee members and their chairmen for the time and effort it takes to get a celebration rolling smoothly; to thank all those who furnished information and pictures to make this book possible, and a fine thank you to the folks who compiled and assembled it.

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THANKS TO MR. AND MRS. J.R. KARR



We want to express our thanks to Mrs. J.R. Karr for her diligence, for her untiring efforts, for her patience in research and study, for the many hours of her time devoted, for the many miles she traveled making personal contacts with various individuals and families, for her positive persistence in obtaining the many facets that make this 75th Jubilee History Book what it is. Also, a thank you to her husband, J.R. Karr, who also assisted in supplying some of the facts for this book. We know the Karrs enjoyed doing this particular book, and we are happy they did. To all others who contributed to the making of this book, we say, Thank You! At present, it is the only book of its kind that contains the history and beginning of the town of Ireton.

Ireton's 75th Jubilee Committee

IRETON HISTORY

A history of Ireton must be prefaced by some facts of Sloux County coming into being as a part of the government.

Some state records give the date of Sloux County's origin as 1852, but say that it was too far from central offices to attract much attention. Some older residents recall stories of the first officers being self-elected and Calliope designated as the County seat in 1857. Then we find copies of the first minutes of the county trustees, who met to appoint or elect some school directors. These were dated Feb. 1869.

Records found not long ago give the population of Sloux County up to 1869 as follows.

- 10 Inhabitants in 1860
- 25 Inhabitants in 1863
- 20 Inhabitants in 1865
- 18 Inhabitants in 1867
- 110 Inhabitants in 1869

Buncomb Township, established some time before 1861, comprised most of the county.

Later, when the Dutch people came to the community in the eastern part of the county, they divided the county into two townships, the eastern one called Holland Twp. Later there were more divisions until when Ireton was considered a town, two townships affected its growth; Washington on the west and Reading Twp. extending east and north. We find no record of the naming of Washington Twp. but the name "Reading" was suggested by S. A. Hammond, who had come from Reading Township in Vermont early in 1870. Later these two became four townships; Washington, Eagle, Reading and Center with areas of thirty-six sections each.

We do not know just when homestead land was opened up in Iowa, but entries have been found in Center Township in 1857. For some reason, not many of these filings were ever fulfilled and the real period of home steaders coming in was about 1868, reaching a peak in 1870.

A soldier could homestead one hundred and sixty acres and other citizens eighty acres. The Pre-emption Act was passed which allowed him to pre-empt another eighty acres adjoining, paying \$2.50 per acre for it if he could manage to have that much money.

The spring of 1870 brought many people seeking new homes. Among the names in Washington Twp. were Levi M. Black, Mark Burket, Charles French, Selah Van Skike, Charles Whalen, Ab Sargent, Charles Tarox, Geo. Root and son, Ron, and Henry Launtz,

Luther Calvin, A. J. Whitney, S. Percy, Julius Morey, E. J. Earll and F. Worsecter.

In Reading Twp. came C. D. Allen, L. D. Sherman and S. A. Hammond.

Later that year, we find these names of people coming in: J. W. Satterlee, Nathaniel Ferris, M. D. Smith, B. F. Granger, Patrick Quigley, Michael Glen, Hiram Evans, Harae McCormick and M. M. Elder. The two later settled on Sec. 8 just east of where Ireton now is. In 1871, we find the names of Henry Kluter, Charles Henrich, Byran Peebles, E. R. Day, O. W. Quint, Patrick Clarey, H. H. Davidson, G. H. Darling, Edw. Kellog, Benj. Putney, D. K. McKeayon, J. T. Knowlton, W. J. Knowlton, and Geo. Castel and Henry Shimer.

The Hodom family came in 1871. The name of Dave Sheets appears as having settled in what became Eagle Twp. before 1870, shortly after the Civil War.

Later settlers in the 1880's who called Ireton their home and settled in Eagle Twp. were A. S. Karr in 1882. Ben Schemmer in 1883, C. R. McCrory in 1884 and D. G. Johnson in 1889. Thomas Wills and J. C. Jones settled at the same time.

Back in Washington Twp. we find the names of M. McNally and Jno McNally, who had come here to look over things in 1868, returned to Sabula, Iowa, and moving here in 1872 to purchase the farm and then moving here in 1873, locating on Section 35. That year also brought Jno Kirkpatrick.

The early 1880's brought in the M. Fritz and H. Witt families, Fred Nanninga, Wm. Morgan, Searles and Younie families, T. H. Pryer, Frank and Fred Earl, John and Byran Lawton, J. Patrick, M. O. Karr, Jas O'Meara, A. Dannenbring, Livi Bushby, L. Twillman, S. R. Bader, D. C. McKelvie and F. Schimming.

This list is incomplete, of course, as are others, but we find some records not too faithfully kept. In what became Center Twp. after petitions were signed by land holders, to set it apart from Reading Twp. W. J. Taylor settled in 1882. Here, too, came a most courageous mother, Mrs. Mary Houlton, with her family, two sons, C. B. and G. L. and two daughters. 1883 brought A. Morrison, M. Coombs, Frank Taylor and J. C. Miller came in 1884. During the later years we find the names of Wm. Irwin, Charles Steele, R. J. Smith, Wm. and Leo T. Brown as well as R. C. Brown. Then the John Stewart, R. H. Campbell, Frederick Bertram, Jno Taylor, G. H. Heiderman and the Heidbrink family and Thomas Yates.

Back to Reading Twp. we find the names of J. F. Morris settling in 1880, then a little while later, Wm. Bushby and family, Thomas White and family, Dan Montgomery, Henry Vlotho, Henry Vander Hamm and son, August, B. O. Fosburg, Porter Fosburg and the Tierman family and David Patton.

In thinking about the land-holdings of those people, we would like to say that the extensive ownership of the McNally lands are still in the hands of descendants, as are those of the Earls, Searles, Witt, Patrick, McCrory, Jno Taylor, F. Bertram, Tierman, E. H. Elits, Vander Hamm, Vlotho, H. Kluter, M. M. Elder, Charles Tarbox, and the lands acquired in those earliest years by R. A. Zimmerman, who came to help settle Ireton and conducted business as well as accumulating land. In the same category, we can also mention D. R. Stewart, our veteran blacksmith.

In about 1877, the Close Bros., Wm. and Fred came into Plymouth Co. after hearing about rich soil of northwest Iowa. Wm. Close had won honors in England as a Cambridge oarsman and was quite well known so when he carried reports back to England, they attracted much attention. The story goes that those reports reached the ears of a Lord Henry Ireton of Cornwall, who agreed to help gather funds for the two young men to purchase and speculate in land in this part of the world, and an agreement was made that a town or community be named for him.

They came and bought up what was designated as railroad lands and abandoned homesteads in some instances. By the spring of 1882, they were advertising 500,000 acres for sale in Cherokee, Plymouth and Sioux Counties. They had many acres around what became Ireton and about the first thing they did was to hire men to set out groves to help plan building sites. A Mr. Follett from Reading Twp. did much of it. Then sets of buildings were put up by Frank Granger for them.

So much attention was drawn to this land that the Close Bros. found it too much of a chore to bring out would-be-buyers from their headquarters in LeMars so they built a brick building on Sec. 7 of Reading Twp. placing a Mr. Sears there as their agent. The downstairs served as the offices and Mr. Sears and his family lived upstairs. When the town was platted early in the summer of 1882 with the promise of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad being built later, this house stood on lower Main St., where it still stands and is occupied by Clarence Anema and family. The first child born in Ireton was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Sears.

The railroad was surveyed that summer and immediately people began to move in and do some building. The first merchant was a Mr. O'Brien who built a store in the center of the block on the west side of the main street. Then Mr. Kilberg built a two-story general store building on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets which is now the K. B. Store. This housed his mercantile business as well as the shoe shop of D. A. Savage and the post office. D. E. Wing with Levi M. Black established a drug business and also became interested in a harness shop as did Mark Berkett. Dr. J. C. Beckwith was the first medical man in town and was interested, with Mr. Wing in the drug store. Dr. Beckwith married Emma Sargent. Mr. Wing bought a small building that had been put up on the east side of Main Street but soon sensed the need of a longer building so built the two-story building that has served the community as a drug store until a few years ago when R. R. Satterlee bought out the stock and moved it to the corner store east on Fourth and Main. During the years of the occupancy of the building, Mr. Wing built, we remember the names of Parsons, Townsend, E. E. Waite and W. A. Marienau as druggists.

The upstairs rooms of that building were used by most of the civic societies of the town as they came into existence; The Launtz Post G. A. R., Ladies of the Relief Corps, Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, and Daughters of Rebecca, the Woodman Lodge, Good Templars Lodge and Modern Brotherhood. Some of these organizations are no longer in existence and some have combined with those of other communities.

An early day blacksmith that did work for his neighbors was A. J. Whitney on Sec. 12 Washington Twp. In return for his services in the way of repairing implements, his neighbors would use that time in helping him with his needs on his homestead. Then a Mr. Dale came to the new town and started a blacksmith shop, which after a year was bought by Dan Stewart. Mr. Braaks came into town and started a second shop, for the need was great. Their stories are told elsewhere in this history. Carpenters that came to the community in the early 80's were Wm. Johnston, Milton Miller, Wylie Scott and Philo Warfield. Frank Kidson came in as a mason and J. E. Byrne came, able to do tin smith work. But he soon went into the mercantile business with his father, and having bought the Launtz farm, sold it to W. C. Tilford. Mr. Tilford, not wanting to farm, bought the hardware store from Geo. Meader, who had established it in 1883.

Mr. Tilford employed a Civil War veteran Henry Welch to help with the tin work. He also had the help of James Lilley for a long time. Mr. Tilford later retired and VandeWater Bros. took over his store.

Another hardware store was run by G. N. Phillips, then it passed on to J. A. Denkmann, who sold it after a few years to Theo. Shaver. Mr. Shaver's health wasn't very good and he didn't live long here. E. H. Atwood of LeMars bought the stock. Eventually the two stocks of hardware were combined and run by Mr. and Mrs. John Smith. Later George Drost bought it and then sold to Julius Barents and Peter Lockhorst, Jr. who are now operating it.

Livery barns were a necessity seventy-five years ago, both for renting out horses and rigs and for boarding horses. John Dale, Wm. McCall and Geo. Meader bought a barn built by Byron Peebles. These four men loved good horses and owned some fine ones. Later John Edwards took over the business. With the advent of the auto, the livery business was out and Edwards went into the saloon business.



The transfer business was also a necessity and we recall the names of D. Terpensing, Charles Stevens, D. Niehaus, Jno Dale, Wm. Bushby, Geo. Rake, E. S. Keith, A. D. Wescott, W. A. Culver, Peter Harsma, Bert Goodman, Ed Belmers and Bill De Vos. This seems like quite a number, but often, three dray lines were operating at one time and every one of them busy. One of the dray men had the contract for carrying the mail from the depot to the post office.

Mrs. Foster, her daughter, Kittle, and two sons came in 1882 and considered this an ideal place to set up a furniture store.

FOSTER BROS.,
LAND AGENTS,
 INSURANCE • ART • COLLECTIONS
MONEY TO LOAN.
 — ALSO DEALERS IN —
FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Mrs. Foster and Kittle ran the store and the brothers evidently dealt in real estate, as their business card shows. A few years ago, when paint wore off the front of the building, the name, "Foster Bros." showed plainly under the name "F. Fair & Co.", who bought the furniture store then. In time Mr. Fair became interested in real estate and mining interests, seeking a different climate because of his wife's health, he sold to L. D. Satterlee and moved to Boulder Colo. and then to Romeo, Colo.

BANKING

A Dr. Mosher had appeared in those early years and was a trusted health adviser for many years. His interests in surgery led him to LeMars where he set up a small hospital. A Dr. Owens had come in at an early date. He was an M. D. but was also interested in banking. He bought the house, left unfinished by Geo. Meader, finished it and made it his home with his wife, daughters, Sadie and Jennie, and small twin sons. He set up a practice and at the same time established the Citizens Bank with L. Day. Willie Day was the manager and bookkeeper. It didn't last long and he turned over his holdings to a group of farmers who established the Farmers and Merchants Bank with Ed Henrich as cashier, E. S. Bierman, Ass't Cashier, Geo. Lande, President and Henry Vlotho, Vice-President. Dr. Owens sold his home to Israel Wood who only lived there a short time then it was sold to Mr. Fair and finally to Chas. Steele, where he lived until he moved to California. It has now been remodeled, modernized and is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bartlett.

Another bank was the Bank of Ireton, located on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets on the south side of the street with H. F. McKeever as Cashier. His family lived upstairs for quite a few years, then moved into a large house they had built in the southwest part of town. The failure of another bank brought it down with it and the first offices of the Local Mutual Telephone Co. occupied the building for some time. When the present garage owned by Jake Sinkey was planned by Kluter and Schuelke, the bank was moved to the back of the lot and the new large garage took its place. The old building has since been torn down.

The other bank was the Northwestern Bank, owned by G. W. Pitts of Alton, and it was closed by the failure of the Alton Bank in Alton in 1926. The Farmers and Merchants Bank was sold to new interests and the present bank finally developed.



THE NEW SECURITY SAVINGS
BANK BUILDING

DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

In mentioning doctors, a Dr. Wilson was an early day doctor and J.J. Ballachey, neither staying here too long but Dr. McCaughan, who was with us many years, came as a young man in 1897 while Dr. Mosher was still here. He brought his bride here and they were both very active in church and community life. He served many times as health officer and he held the office of president of the school board. He was a real "horse and buggy doctor", braving snow and blizzards as well as heat and rain storms. His health began to fail after the untimely death of his only child, Kathryn. She was a highly educated person and was a teacher in California. She caught the flu and went back to work too soon. Complications developed and no medical skill at that time could save her. Since Mrs. McCaughan's health had never been the best, they decided to retire and go to a different climate. The change did no good and neither one lived very long. They were brought back and laid to rest beside their daughter and among the people with whom they had labored so long. She passed away in January of 1938 and he in April, 1939. The young man who came to take his place, a Dr. E. Walker had come from Chicago, where he had interned. He had been trained for surgery and from what we know of what he did here, he would be a good surgeon but this was in the depression years and he had borrowed the money for his training. At the time of his graduation, openings were few so he came here about 1932. However, in a few months, an unusual opportunity was presented to him.

The offer of a very good position in the hospital where he had interned. Of course, we hated to see him go but it was the only course for him and he has done exceedingly well since then. About fifty years ago, a young doctor, L.C. Dick of Hawarden, came here and practiced a few years. While here, he married Sadie Farrand, later moving to Spencer, South Dakota. Here he practiced a period of forty five years, until his death recently.

Dr. F.F. Null and family spent many years in Ireton, coming in 1910, and made a tremendous impression in this area. He with his medical knowledge and his wife, with her musical ability. But his interest, also in surgery, took him to Hawarden in 1923, a much larger field with the presence of a community hospital. Here, he worked the rest of his life, which ended in 1953.

Dr. Bendixon came in to take Dr. Null's place and was here a number of years. He too, was much interested in community life, especially the school, and served as president of the school board for some time. Both he and his wife were active in the M. E. Church. His interests, too, laid in Le Mars, where he has an extensive practice.

A Dr. Bild and other doctors have come and gone but modern transportation has made it easy to get to the doctor we have have grown used to as well as nearby hospitals. We do not have a doctor here now as young doctors do not seem to be interested in small communities without hospitals.

And such was the way with dentists. Dr. H.P. White practiced here a few years, married Hathe Wing and moved to Sioux City. A Dr. G.A. Matheson was here many years but went to Des Moines to educate his sons and be near his wife's relatives when her health began to fail. Next came Dr. Knowles, who let Des Moines draft him. Then Dr. Burris, an older man, who stayed with us until he was ready to retire, when he went to Arkansas. Dr. Bender, a young man, came and took care of us for a long time but as greater opportunities appeared, went to Portland, Oregon, where he is now an instructor at the university.

When the town was younger, and legal advise was often needed, and means of getting it took too long. Mr. K.S. Selby decided he was needed here and he was. He was here for some time and was followed by S. H. Carr, who served in an able manner and was also postmaster for awhile, living here in 1905.

OTHER BUSINESSES

The first hotel was built by a Mr. and Mrs. Adkins, south of the depot and termed "The Depot Hotel". They had a good business but Mrs. Adkin's health wasn't too good and she was suddenly struck by the grim reaper.

A Mr. Ross and his family took over for a while then we find the names of Carder, Morrison, I.N. Gohn, Sr., Pete Wels and G. N. Halley as operators. Fire finally took the old building and it has not been replaced but the city fathers planned a city park there with benches, tables, stoves and water provided. Many a picnic is still held there under the shade trees.

The other hotel, The Davidson House, was established in the early eighties, as the need of "another home away from home" became apparent. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Davidson catered to all who needed their services for many years. They had lived on Sec. 4 Reading Twp. They sold their homestead to Wm. Irwin of Jo Davless Co., Ill. who came to this county with his family of young people. When they retired to Ireton, they sold their farm to Henry Vlotho, who wanted it for his daughter, Clara. She later became Mrs. Hugo Wellnitz. Later, Davidson House became a bowling alley and a poolroom was added. Tlerman Bros. operated it for many years. It finally burned down.

We also had two jewelers in town. E.C. Carpenter was the first one, coming shortly after the railroad went through. He operated it for many years, carrying a fine line of jewelry and fine china. He was a skilled watch maker. Many high school graduates received their watches from his shop as cherished gifts. The other jeweler was O.J. Ludwig, who conducted his shop in a corner of Frank Wilson's clothing store. He didn't stay with us too many years.

Yes, we had two clothing stores. Mr. Wilson was followed by J.H. Kidinler, who earlier had a general store. Mr. W.W. Sulser ran the other one and sold it to Karr and Taylor. They moved their merchandise to Pocahontas, Iowa about 1907. Mr. Kidinler put his business in the hands of his sons, Chester and Marvin, who finally closed the stock out.

The Parker brothers, Ernest and Fred, operated a drug store for a long time. Ernest sold it to his brother-in-law, John H. Pryon. It is no longer in existence. Fred Parker became postmaster.

Restaurants have been run, over the years, by Mr. Parsons, Aug. Niehaus, Mrs.

Stewart, C. Hilton, Geo. Rohe, Mary Pereboom, Mrs. Freda Hill, Ila VanderHamm, Dick Vreeman, Paul VanderHamm, and the ones being operated now are those of L. Goodmanson and Mrs. Isabel Baack.

For a number of years, a brickyard was operated here by M.C. Stolge, in the valley northwest of Ireton where the sewage plant is now situated. It was abandoned about 1902 or 1903.

After the town was plotted in June of 1882, the railroad began to build their road but it wasn't ready for the rails until October 1, 1883 when the iron strips were spiked down. The first train went through October 5, 1883 and that very day, the train crew's work car burned with all their belongings. A great celebration for Lord Ireton's namesake. Land had been left along the south side of the right-of-way for elevators and shipping facilities. Immediately, five elevators, a mill and stockyards were built as well as a depot. The first depot agent was Geo. Holden and he was the first man to die in Ireton.

Mr. Carder was the first miller and Peter Burns and a Mr. Cobb followed. Then there was a Mr. Ensign from Hawarden who bought the mill and Mr. M. Schumacher ran it until they closed it, as flour was shipped in from larger milling companies.

Easy shipping facilities gave impetus to cattle feeding and about 1907 - 1908, Ireton was shipping out 350 carloads of cattle to the Chicago markets yearly.

The elevators were run by H.B. Smith F.O. Parker, Sr., Travis Parker, B. Wilcoxsen and Taylor Bros. Then the Farmers' Cooperative Association was formed and they bought out the Taylors. One of the others burned and some disposed of in other ways. Leonard Grau bought one and tore it down, taking it to LeMars, where he and his brother, Geo. Grau, used the lumber in building several cottages.



There were two lumber yards. J.H. Queal and Co. and F.M. Slagle. Queal and Co. shipped in the first stock of lumber. Mr. Z. Parker was the manager for a short time. He was moved to another place and C.F. Farrand took his place and was here

for a long time. While here, he married one of the Irwin daughters, Anna. During that time, F.M. Slagle and Co. of Alton put in another stock of lumber with C.W. Plumb in charge. Then Mr. Dayton followed Mr. Plumb. Later, Mr. Slagle sold to Schoeneman Bros. and J.J. Mueller acted as manager and Mr. Dayton was transferred to Paullina. Mr. Farrand's health began to fail, so he was succeeded by H.N. Klinefelter. He remained until the Farmers' Cooperative Association was formed and bought the Queal Co. Finally, Schoeneman sold to the Farmer's Cooperative too and J.J. Mueller stayed on as manager. The Farmers' Cooperative now had the elevator and the lumberyard combined and they continue that combination now. They have a large remodeled elevator with features never dreamed by the men who started the various small elevators in Ireton.



Managers of the elevator have been: Wm. Taylor, Harry Sewick, Roland Peters, H.M. Brown, Harold Twillman and Wm. Rademacher. Managers of the lumber yard have been: C.W. Plum, J.J. Mueller, Amos Richardson, and Russel DeVos. At present, Ronald Shelton is overall manager with John Baade in the lumber yard.

Mr. H.M. Brown is now owner of the elevator at McNally with an extensive business. His son, Ralph, is connected with the business also. Another son, Charles, has the elevator at Hudson, So. Dakota and another son, Robert, has an elevator at Fairview. This has resulted in a family affair of good cooperation.

Jack Ping now is the owner and operator of a feed business in Ireton. He has his own feed mixers and caters to farmers for miles around. Wilbur Eilers also runs a feed business with services of many kinds for farmers. Leon DeRaad and Herman Dirksen are feed salesmen. The TenNapel Bros. run three portable feed grinders and Arthur Bartlett has two large portable corn shellers and John Gellerman has one. Herman Dirksen recently bought one also.

G.L. Houlton built the building now occupied by Eilers' Feed Store and ran a garage there and was the agent for the Chandler cars. Harry Smith ran a garage for

awhile south of Fourth Street, then Wm. Muller operated it. At his death in 1951, it was taken over by Elisma Bros. and the other garage in town is now run by Jake Sinkey. These men sell and service cars and service tractors.

We now have two implement dealers; Stouland Implement and Schmitz Implement. Stouland Implement is owned and operated by Bud Vreeman and Schmitz Implement is owned and operated by Jack Schmitz. Ekdom Bros. had conducted the latter business formerly. Henry Hieren was one of our earlyday implement dealers with a well digger that was always in great demand. Sinkey and Fredericks also had a similar business, starting it in the basement of Fred Vlotho's store, then moving to the old U.P. Church Property.

Jack Carter was a colorful man in the earlier days. He was English by birth and came to America at the age of 20. He located in Ireton in 1882 where he constructed a machinery shop a block east of Main Street on the north side of Fourth Street. His home was east in the same block, now owned by Peter Santema. He plied his business at this location until he became interested in the promotion and construction of Ireton's first electric light plant in 1910. A one cylinder gasoline engine was installed in a new cement building between Second and Third Streets where the old livery barn had stood and we soon had electric lights replacing the kerosene and gas lights that had been so inadequate. Mr. Carter held various civic offices and during his four years as mayor, he worked hard for the new modern City Hall. It was built, but he died before it was finally constructed and dedicated in 1932.

J.P. Riter and sons, Orin and Lester, built a fine implement shop on the corner north of where the post office is now located. They expanded as their business grew and Orin ran a branch at Hawarden, Lester ran one at Craig, and finally, Merle Shawhan, a son-in-law, was in charge of the one at Akron.

Over the years, there have been a number of families interested in thrashing machines. The C.F. Bailey and C.P. Baileys ran the old horse power machines. Then they used steam engines with the accompanying water-boy hauling the water for the steam and coal for the fuel. L.A. Bailey and C.N. Bartlett had thrashing rigs, as did Geo. Bartlett. The latter was the stand by and always said that as long as Geo. White would act as his separation man, he would stay with it. When Geo. White died,

Mr. Bartlett gave up and moved to town, buying the home across from his son, that had been erected by O.B. Kissey, ass't. cashier in the earlier days of the Northwestern Bank. Mrs. Bartlett still lives there. Mr. Bartlett died in 1949.



Henry Vlotho, August VanderHamm and the Bushby Bros. also had threshing machines. All the later machines were powered by gasoline engines. Not so picturesque perhaps, but so much more convenient. Now, farmers all use combines, which takes away from the neighborly spirit of former times, when everybody helped everyone else until the job was done. This has been a boon to housewives when only a half a dozen men come in for dinner, where before, from twenty to thirty hungry threshers had to be fed for a week at each home. But, there too, neighbors helped neighbors.

IRETON CLIPPER ADVERTISEMENT IN 1889

Worsted Dress Goods at 12 cents per yard.
All wool 38" Trego flannel 38¢ per yard.
Our \$2.00 blanket is a warmer.

Gents silk handkerchiefs and mufflers from
50¢ to \$2.50

Ladies kid gloves in all leading colors \$1.00
If anyone beats our men's all wool shirts at
75¢, we will give you one.

Complete line of nobby plush ties in all the
colors 15¢

Good Wool Boots - - - - \$1.00 a pair

HERE COMES THE EYE OPENERS

20 lbs. Prunes - - - - -	\$1.00
12 lbs. Granulated sugar - - - - -	\$1.00
10 cans standard tomatoes - - - - -	\$1.00
10 cans standard peas - - - - -	\$1.00
10 cans standard corn - - - - -	\$1.00
10 cans standard blackberries - - - - -	\$1.00
8 cans standard raspberries - - - - -	\$1.00
5 lbs. package coffee - - - - -	\$1.00
Choice table peaches 15¢ per can	

We are peaceful and don't want to kick
up a dust, but will give you 7 lbs. of tea
dust for only \$1.00.

General stores have been handled by various
people; Kidwiler, Byrnes, Willis and

Wells, Fred Marienau, Fred Vlotho, J.A. Jenson, Black and Haggard, Farmer's, Hynink, Wells and Hilton, Feldman and Gusman, Earl Wells and finally, the Kor-nor Store run by Holtdorf and Wandling. R.A. Herwynen now operates his store and G. Bruxvoort runs the K.B. Store.

Dr. A.L. Cralk, a Spanish-American War veteran was our veterinarian for many years. When his health forced him to give up his practice, it was taken over by Robert Fischer of Orange City. He sold to Dr. E.J. Bild, a son of our medical doctor, E. J. Bild. In turn, he sold to Dr. James Brown, a son of H.M. Brown. But Ames College called Dr. Brown to return there as an instructor. Now we have a classmate of his, Dr. Donald Wert, and a very busy man he is.

Meat markets have been run by a Mr. Terpenning, A.C. Collins, Eggers and Stein Frank Struck, J.Y. Cartono, Stewart Brodie, Leslie Harker, P.J. Alvine and Pete Vander Berg. Locker plants have been run by Paul Anema, Andy Anema and Bernard DeJong, Melvin Borgman, Roland Baack and Clarence Anema. Mr. Anema bought out his partner, Roland Baack and now operates it by himself.

Barbers who have served Ireton, as near as we can learn, were Oscar Beck, a Mr. Henderson, W.E. Everett, Clarence and Allen Riley, J.Y. Carteno, Bill Booth, Ernest Ehlers and Ernest Goodman. The latter has the longest record of tenure.

Carpenters and contractors have been Wm. Johnson, Philo Warfield, Milton Miller, Sr., W.S. Scott, G.I. Riley, W.G. Calwill, W.J. Reid, C.H. Muth, W. Davis, Harry Wilcoxon, George Grau, and now the Schipper Brothers. Ed Mulder also does a good bit of this type of work since retiring from the farm.

One fact, remaining worthy of note, is that when Stou County made their plans to build a permanent court house in Orange City, the contract was awarded to W.S. Scott. Wm. Dealy of Reading Township was chairman of the Board of Supervisors at that time.

Painters and decorators during the years have been John Hancock, Darling and Langdon, N.N. Coon, Ben Wilson, John Morrison, Frank Buck, Ferguson and Shankland and Ike Goin, the latter having unusual skill in decorating interiors of churches and large buildings. We might mention that for many years a woman, Mrs. W.T. Morrison, was in great demand for paper-hanging. She was both swift and neat.

This brings to our minds a story of one

of the earliest settlers told. He had built a sod house, plastering it inside with mud. His wife papered it.

Of the various agents who were employed by the railroad, perhaps the one who will be remembered the best is A. T. Stafford, who came here in 1899 and performed his duties here for 28 years. He and his wife, Ada, were very active in community and social circles. He was a staunch supporter of the Masonic Order, and she was one of the charter members of our Women's Civic Club, and also the Ireton Branch of the Red Cross. They were transferred to Alton where they lived for 14 years, then to Hawarden where they spent their remaining years. Although they had no family of their own, they raised from early childhood Mrs. Stafford's brother, Cecil Cooper, who grew to manhood here and has made his home here continuously.

Our area has provided two active county representatives to the State Legislature. C. F. Bailey served two terms beginning in 1893, and J. F. Morris served from 1906 for two terms. Dan Montgomery was appointed to fill out the un-expired term of C. W. Carter of Rock Valley, who had resigned, but since there was no session after his appointment, he never was active as a lawmaker.

M. McNally served on the Board of County Supervisors for two periods totaling eighteen years.

Wm. Dealy also served on the Board of Supervisors for many years. Wm. Morgan was County Treasurer about 1884.

Since the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad has no service through Ireton except for an occasional freight transportation of commodities for the stores, it is done by truck; either by the wholesaler's truck or by Van Voorst of Rock Valley, who has a truck carrying all kinds of lighter freight. Much stock is still shipped out of the Ireton territory to the city markets in Sioux City and Chicago. It is all done by truck.

There have been many so-called truckers, but one of the well-known ones was Albert Holtdorf, who recently retired and sold out to Peter Lockhorst. Harvey Bolsen is our veteran trucker, having operated his business many years. He received recognition by the Stockyards Association for his advice on the care of handling stock. VandenBerg, Dekker and Koopmans have semi-trailer trucks for long distance stock hauling.

ENTERTAINMENT

Now when we go to the Out-door Movies, or sit quietly at home looking at T. V., we wonder what the earliest settlers did for entertainment. We come to the conclusion that their life was so full of work that if they ever had time to be entertained it was done by visiting a little with their neighbors, sharing experiences, and exchanging bits of news.

As time went on, and youngsters grew up, we find that spelling-bees, home-talent shows and ball games filled some of their needs.

School programmes, box and basket socials or pie socials were held too. As larger barns were built, barn dances and husking bees were heard about, and, of course, debates and fiddler's contests. There were hard times parties too; these could easily be portrayed by these settlers.

In the "Gay Nineties" a tent show was eagerly awaited by young and old alike. It was; "Uncle Tom's Cabin." A tent was pitched on some convenient lot and everybody in town and country turned out for their parade at noon. Announcement was made of a band concert at 7 P.M. with the performance at 8 P.M. Admission: 25¢ and 35¢.

What brought the crowds out, Topsy, Little Eva, Uncle Tom, or the blood-hounds chasing Eliza across the ice? Or was it the clown who was always threatening to "black the deacon's eye"? Whatever it was, Terry's Uncle Tom's Cabin Co. was eagerly looked forward to each year.

We always anticipated the Fourth of July celebration. M. M. Elder had taken what was known as a tree claim on the southeast corner of Sec. 8, as had Dave Patton just south of the cemetery. A homesteader could take an extra piece of land if he agreed to set out twenty acres of trees. These two groves were popular places for picnics, since they weren't too far from town. We often went to one or the other for the Fourth. One also remembers Decoration Day services being held in the Patton Grove, with a large platform and seats built by boards lent by the lumber companies.

The G. A. R. Post and Women's Relief Corps, with a group of school children carrying flowers, led by a Drum and Flute Corps, would march out there for patriotic speeches, then cross to the cemetery to decorate the soldiers' graves. Later the services were held in some building in town and the groups drove to the cemetery.

Fred Vlotho had a general store building on the corner of Third and Main Streets.

case of need. This group has their own organization, but the equipment is housed

in the City Fire House and manned by the Ireton Volunteer Fire Department.



THE "MECHANIZED" IRETON FIRE DEPARTMENT OF 1926

One interesting circumstance that could be related here is that the Fire Department went to Orange City on Sept. 20, 1907 with their Hose Cart and Hook and Ladder Wag-

on and entered a tournament. The railroad let them use a flat car and hauled it to their destination free of charge.



ON THEIR WAY TO ORANGE CITY IN 1907

IRETON'S MODERN COMMUNITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Ireton has a population of a little over 500 and it is governed by a council elected at large every two years. A mayor conducts the meetings which are held the first Monday of every month. Five members compose the council, besides the mayor, clerk and treasurer.

In looking over the old town records, we find the first meeting was held November 11, 1890, when the town was incorporated at the Bank of Ireton.

The oath of office was administered to Mayor Geo. M. Harding by H. F. McKeever, a notary public. In turn, Mayor Harding then administered the oath to the trustees elect, H. F. McKeever, H. B. Smith, R. L. Wheeler, A. H. Mosher, D. Nichaus and D. E. Wing, with C. W. Plumb, recorder.

They drew lots for terms of office with the short term ending in March of 1891 for two of the trustees, the next term to end in March of 1892, and for the longest term to end in March of 1893.

No mention of a treasurer was made at this time, but committees on Finance, Ordinances and Street Affairs were appointed. In December, E. R. Terpenning was appointed Marshal, to serve without pay until the first meeting of the new council.

We found record of a Board of Health appointed in March, 1896 with Dr. A. H. Mosher as Health Officer.

We do not know much about water for use by town, but for home use most of the citizens had dug cisterns for their water supply. We did find a motion made in July of 1891 that the Street Commissioner repair the town well and put in a good pump. We know that much later a good bit of trouble was experienced as the town grew, and wells were dug at various places. Gas engines were used to pump.

Finally, a good-water-works system was put in with a wooden tank on a tower on a lot on upper Main Street. It has since been built higher with a steel tank above it, and the town well is located in the extreme southeast part of town. The ball park and the pumping station is there.

After a number of years of meeting in various offices of public-minded citizens, a town hall was put on the east side of Main between Fourth and Fifth Street, which was also used as a home for the fire engine. Later the fire company occupied a building between Main and Elm Street on the south side of Fourth St. Here town elections were held, and the council held their meet-

ings.

About 1932 a fine brick building was built on the south side of Fourth Street between Main and East Street. This has a good-sized auditorium and stage, with offices and halls on the first floor; and a good basement housing the Library, run by the Auxiliary, with Council Rooms, Dining Room, Kitchen, Rest Rooms and Furnace Room.

To the rear we find an addition that houses the equipment of the Fire Department. This room has easy outlet to the alley in the rear, and a wide pavement along the building leading to the Street in front.

At the time of dedication a portrait of Lord Ireton was given by friends or descendants of him and presented to Ireton.

The town jail is located in a cement block building on the lot near the water tank.

We have always felt that our city officers have done their best for the town. However, with the growing respect for women's ability, a slate of women's names for town officials was put up at one general election with Mrs. D. G. Johnson for Mayor, Mrs. Harry Sewick for Treasurer, Mrs. D. R. Stewart for Assessor; and for Council Members, Mrs. Hal Vande Water, Mrs. John Vlotho, Mrs. Fred Schuette, Mrs. Raymond Steele and Mrs. Frank Parrot.

This attracted much attention and much amusement, and accounts were carried in city papers. When the election was over, the women hadn't won, but they had totaled up a goodly number of votes.

The present mayor is John Ekdom. Gerald Juffer is Clerk and Art Sinkey is town Treasurer. The five regular members are Emery Vlotho, G. T. Juffer, Wilbur Vreeman, Jack Plug and Alfred Hemmingson. Elections are held every two years.



"IRETON GENERAL MANAGER" AND
MRS. D. E. WING

Some of the older residents remember D. E. Wing as being the "General Manager" of Ireton. Consequently, it has been said that he was the first mayor. He was a very progressive man, and it would be natural for him to take the initiative in community affairs. But the first minutes of the incorporated town, written in 1890, give the name George M. Harding as mayor. So we draw the conclusion that a sort of informal government must have held sway before that date.

OUR POSTAL SERVICE

The earliest records of mail service tell the good news that on July 4th, 1871 a mail route was established, running from LeMars to Luverne, Minn. Before this time, people from Reading and Center Twps. had had to go to LeMars to mail a letter or get word from home. This route ran by way of "Oshkosh" on the south east quarter of Sec. 2 of Reading Twp. with Jas. Catrill as Postmaster. Mr. Catrill didn't live many years and at his death, a Mr. Lias took care of the mail until, in a few years, it's post office was moved to the farm of Wm. Dally at the northeast quarter of Sec. 11, where it remained until the office in Ireton was established with Levi M. Black as postmaster. The carrier was a Samuel Bell-essfield of Sioux Twp. The mail was probably transported by pony express. Mail was also carried through Washington Twp. but on the route running from Sioux City to Sioux Falls. The first record of this was in 1877, when Chas. Tarbox was appointed postmaster of Corn Valley on the southeast corner of Sec. 2.

The following is a copy of his commission supplied by his daughter, Mrs. Minnie Lay of Syracuse, N. Y.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

David M. Key
Postmaster General of the United States of America

Whereas, on the 4th day of May, 1877 Charles P. Tarbox was appointed Postmaster at Corn Valley in the County of Sioux, State of Iowa, and whereas he did on the 21st day of May, 1877 execute a bond... now, know ye, That, confiding in the integrity... of the said Charles P. Tarbox, I do commission him as postmaster... at Corn Valley aforesaid... the twenty-sixth day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States the one

hundredth and first.

Jas. N. Tyner

Acting Postmaster General

Seal has a pony

express rider on it.

SEA1.

1880 found this post office transferred to a Mr. Root on the northeast quarter of Sec. 2, who probably held the office until it was combined with the office in Ireton in November of 1882.

The government allowed the fixtures to this office to be placed in a corner of a Mr. Kilberg's new store building, now known as the Kay Bee Store. About 1885, Mr. W. U. Sulser was appointed postmaster and the equipment was moved to a small building nearer the center of that block, where it remained for many years.

In 1910, rural free delivery became a reality saving the out of town residents many trips to get their mail and it went out "daily". W. W. Overholser was postmaster at that time and J. A. Lindenman, Fred Sargent and W. A. Morgan were to be the carriers on the three routes to be established. Because of his knowledge of the country to be served, the postmaster gave the job of laying out the routes to Mr. Lindenman. His daughter, Mrs. C. C. Cooper, tells of accompanying her father when, with help, he took a hay rack of posts and mail boxes to be set. His route was # 2 and he travelled south, southwest and west of Ireton. Mr. Morgan had # 1 which was north and Mr. Sargent had # 3 which was southeast. Mr. Morgan, a Civil War Veteran was succeeded in a few years by Bert Wing and Mr. Sargent by Myron Satterlee, but Mr. Lindenman served for thirty-two years. They first went in baggies with horses or mules then advanced to a sort of enclosed buggy equipped with boxes for convenience of keeping the mail sorted. The routes were forty or more miles long and roads often were bad. In the winter, they often had to have small heaters to keep their feet warm. People were so grateful to have their mail close that many had coffee ready for the mailman and often a gift of a meal, chickens, etc. were left at the box for him. Even the horses often had a sack of oats waiting for them.

With the advent of cars and better roads the mailmen had better going. The first car, an open Reo, was used by Mr. Satterlee and people stood on the streets near the post office to watch him take off.

Mr. Lindenman was the man who was interested in his work the longest. He helped organize the state Rural Mail Carriers'

Association and was National Vice-President for several years. He helped secure many benefits for mail carriers, including the pension plan.

In addition to his mail duties, he had time to serve the local school board as their secretary for many years and he also served on the county school board of education for some time. He was active in his church and was especially interested in his work with young people.



J. A. LINDENMAN, ONE OF THE FIRST
IRETON RURAL CARRIERS

The Ireton post office is a so-called "Third Class" office. At one time, three trains a day carried mail in from the west and three trains daily brought it from the east. Mail time at the post office was always an exciting one. People stood around after the train came in to wait for the dray wagon to come up and dump off the bags of mail and, according to the number

of bags, to speculate as to how long it was going to take for the postal employees to get it distributed.

As railroads took off trains, the hours at the post office were shortened somewhat and about 1938, star routes, overland brought mail from LeMars. Then the rural mail routes were combined, so since we have only two routes out of Ireton. About 1949, all trains carrying mail were taken off the C. & N. W. R. R. from Hawarden to Alton and mail is now brought in by star routes. The Des Moines and Sioux City papers are brought in by their own carriers. Now the rural routes are nearly seventy miles long and our carriers are John Moeller and Harry Smith.

Our postmasters over the years have been: Levi Black, W. U. Sulser, S. H. Carr, W. W. Overholser, Levi Black the second time, Lloyd Paul, F. O. Parker, John Moeller, and Walter Peters. The post office is now located on the east side of the street, occupying a brick building that was built for a bank and used for that purpose by several banks that came and went.

OUR NEWSPAPERS

Our first newspaper was printed in 1884 by B. Frank Knapp and he called it "The Ireton Clipper". Records aren't complete about the early papers, but some remember a F. W. Parsons who edited it for awhile, then Roy Wheeler took over, followed by W. W. Overholser, who was here a number of years, also serving as postmaster during his residency here. He sold it to Lee D. Maynard who changed the name to "The Ireton Ledger." E. O. Frees came in and printed it for a few years after Mr. Davis had been here a year or so. When Mr. Frees decided to go west, A. J. Bergstrom came in for a number of years. Since that time, a number of people have edited it for short periods of time.

At the present time we have a newspaper called "The Ireton Booster", edited by R. C. Groom, who is also superintendent of schools here. He began it in the summer of 1954 as a shopping sheet and the following fall had the senior journalism class in the high school take it over.

When it became a legal newspaper, it received national recognition as being the first legal town newspaper in the country to be published by a group of high school students.

The paper was taken over by each succeeding journalism class until the school reorganized in 1960. Funds earned from advertising sponsored an expense paid ed-

ucational tour week in Minneapolis for each graduating class.

When the school was no longer able to publish the paper, Mr. Groom took the paper over himself and with the help of Mrs. Groom and Mrs. Wm. Twillman, as reporter, he still publishes it.

OUR SCHOOLS

Two rural schools were attended by some of the children who later attended school in Ireton when the town was laid out and a school system set up, if such it could be called. One school was established on the northeast corner of Sec. 11 in Washington Twp., known as the Tarbox school and later one school was built on the southeast corner of Sec. 6 in Reading Twp. This was the land homesteaded by Henry Kluter in 1872 and the school was built in 1875. Before this, some of the children had gone to the Tarbox School. Miss Bannister was the first teacher of the school known as # 3.

In 1884, Ireton had been established and platted and as the people were moving in, a school was called for in the town. So # 3 was moved to the spot known as the "Schoolhouse Hill" ever since. It was added to and used until 1887. A Mr. Roy Wheeler who had come from Monroe, Wisc. was the first teacher here and a Miss McCallum taught the intermediate grades and a Miss Montgomery taught the littlest ones. The members of the school board were: M.M. Elder, a farmer from southeast of town; L.M. Black, the postmaster, and D.E. Wing, the druggist and harness dealer.

In 1887, a four-room building was erected, two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. The little building was bought by a Mr. Milton A. Miller and moved down the hill and remodeled into a residence on Elm Street. Chas. Cobb, son of one of the earlier settlers became interested in a high school and suggested it to the school board. They fell in with the idea but since there weren't public funds available for this type of a project, the citizens just went out to raise the money in every possible way and kept the school going.

Mr. Cobb was elected superintendent and Miss McCollum and Miss Montgomery were the grade teachers. They only maintained ten grades at that time.

The first class, numbering six, graduated in 1890; Anna Moffet Burdan, Katherine Burns, Angie Elder Ferguson, Robert Brown, Sarah Davison Kline and Bert Wing. They proudly posed for their graduation picture and forty years later, in 1930 they posed for another picture together with Mr.

Cobb, then connected with the East High School in Sioux City and M.M. Elder, who had been their president of the school board in 1890 but was making his home in California.



The entire community helped to plan this reunion. They were honored guests of the class of 1930 and also at the Alumni Banquet and several other social functions given for them. Now, in 1961, only one member of the class is left. Angie Elder Ferguson. She is an especially honored guest at all Alumni functions.

The school continued to grow, so in the summer of 1894, a small building was built just east of the two story building and when the fall term started, the 1st and 2nd grades were housed here with Nell Ingersoll as the teacher. The 3rd and 4th grades were housed in one of the downstairs rooms of the other building, the 5th and 6th grades in the other downstairs room and the 7th and 8th grades were upstairs, as was the high school, which soon added the 11th grade.



The basic subjects were taught in the grades while gradually algebra, geometry and Latin were added in the high school.

Soon, more room was needed, so an addition of two rooms were added to the southeast corner of the larger building and the small building was bought by a Mr. Irving Knowlton, moved across the street west and made into a residence, now occupied by Mrs. Alice Wells.

In 1915, a new three-story building was contracted for, completed and occupied in

less than a year. The top floor was occupied by the high school and the middle floor by the grades. The ground floor had a manual training room and a lunchroom. This was also used as a gymnasium before the new auditorium was built in 1952. All debts on the main building was paid in 1934.



Since 1920, many new courses have been added. That year, a full commercial department was set up.

Biology, chemistry, physics and journalism were also added, keeping Ireton High School up to the standard of all high schools. We have been very proud of the Ireton school. They have had many extra-curricular activities and have had many records of excellence to their credit such as debate, elocution, declamatory, etc. In 1919, a team composed of Mabel Johnston, Pearl Riter and Rena Van Dyke won the state debate championship. In 1920, a team composed of Dara Bartlett, Claude Parrott and Rosena Ricklefs won the N.W. Iowa championship. B.G. Tye trained them. In 1920, a team of Hubert Zilm, Rosena Ricklefs and Lola Riter won 13 out of the 15 points in the county contest. Their trainer was Margaret Olson. Later, they won the county contest.

Basketball was played before the new schoolhouse was built. In fact, the first games were played out-of-doors; the girls' teams being really "Bloomer Girls", for their suits were made of heavy blue serge with full pleated bloomers - no knees showing. But they did some good playing and later teams have kept up the record, for in 1954, the girls won the sectional tournament with coach Robert Stevens.



IRETON "BLOOMER GIRLS", NAOMI COLLINS, ELLEN PEEBLES, HAZEL CARTANO, ZANA MARIENAU, IDA TAYLOR

Music has produced some outstanding groups. Music was started in 1892 but seems not to have done much until the Woman's Club petitioned the school board at a much later date to hire a regular teacher. The pressure became so strong that the board hired Anne Wiehaus to take over at once in the middle of the year.

In the last five years of Ireton's school being an independent school, Ireton's participants have received over 30 first awards and 94 seconds. Ireton's track teams have excelled. In 1920, Hubert Zilm broke the county pole-vault record. In 1921 and again in 1928 Ireton had a leading team in track. In 1928, Ted Hoogland, alone, made almost as many points at the county track meet as Ireton's nearest competitor. The other members of the team were: Carl Braaks, Verd Satterlee, Gilbert Lindenman, Harold Twillman, Wendell Taylor, Hollis Karr, Milton Wells, Earl Campbell and Leonard VanderHam. L.O. Wickland was their coach.

For several years a football team, under

Mr. Handley, played for the honor of Ireton but football has never been of too much interest in the Ireton school.

An Alumni Association was formed in 1920 and put on a banquet at the end of that school year, honoring the graduates of that year and giving the old graduates an opportunity of a reunion. It has had an annual meeting every year since with an occasional mid-year get-together.

From a beginning of 75 to 90 reservations they now have from 225 up. That is a pretty good average, since many of the older ones have passed on and others are scattered to the ends of the earth.

The Ireton school has graduated 877 and from these, have come, teachers, lawyers, doctors, missionaries, ministers, engineers, singers, nurses, authors, contractors, pianists, federal employees and last but not least, many farmers, who are helping to feed the rest of the world.

Many of our graduates served in World War I, World War II and the Korean War and several have made the supreme sacrifice.

The Ireton schools have become a part of the West Sioux Community School District, but their influence will never die, for as a stone is thrown in the water and the ripples form in ever-widening circles, which reach, no one knows where. The records of the Ireton grade and High School will always reach into the far corners of the world.

One of the interesting things in the experience of youngsters going to school sixty years ago was walking the high board walk built over the low ground just west of the schoolhouse. Many a youngster on the west side of town had to have a father's hand to hang onto on a windy day or he would have been blown off, even if it did have a railing on either side. And in the thawing season, or after a hard rain, youngsters loved to lean over those railed sides and watch the rushing water pass about five feet below them. Some even ventured to wade across, with the danger of a scolding from their mothers when they got home.

On a moonlight evening, some of the older young people of the town used that high board walk for a lovers' lane. We were sorry to see it go.



The Christian Reformed Congregation have a parochial school in Ireton. It was first held in the little church that they had first used for worship services and moved across the street when their needs were taken care of by a larger church building. It soon began to be too small for the number of children who wished to attend there. A new brick building was built and since, that too, had to be enlarged.



OUR CHURCHES

THE FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

In the spring of 1912 a few Dutch families met in a school house west of Ireton and organized a Sunday School. In 1913 the Dunker Church building, which stood in the northern part of Plymouth County, was given to them and moved into town. It had small additional halls and was used until early in 1958 when a large crew of volunteers from this church and the Maurice church began taking down the old wooden structure. The salvaged material was sold at auction, beginning the nucleus of funds for a new church home.

Work progressed during the summer months as members could give the time. The first service was held in the basement on Thanksgiving morning.

The finished church was dedicated December 8 and 9, 1958. It is a beautiful church with a seating capacity of 320. The Rev. Henry F. Senne is the present pastor. A parsonage near the church was built a number of years ago.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1886 a number of families near or west of Ireton wished to have a more convenient location, and since the town was growing rapidly, they met and organized a Lutheran church known as St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church.



THIS PICTURE OF THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WAS TAKEN IN 1908.

They, too, met at homes for awhile. The charter members were H. Kluter, L. Garrels, R. A. Rimmerman, Chas. Henrich, H. Witt, F. W. Marienau, Theo. Ball, C. Cordson, Aug. Schmedhans and Jesse Moos. Some of these had been in St. John's church but transferred for reasons of convenience in reaching worship services.

They soon built a small building costing \$465. Wm. Pereboom was the contractor. It wasn't too long until they had to build a larger church to take care of their needs, then a parsonage, soon a larger parsonage and finally a beautiful new church which is in keeping with the rapid growth of the organization.

They maintained a school near the church until after World War I. The pastor gave religious instruction and taught classes in the basic subjects of the elementary grades. After the war the school was abandoned.

The building now stands on upper Main Street, not too far from the church and has been remodeled into a modern residence, owned by Fred Kluter, the son of the charter member, Henry Kluter.

Among the ministers who have served the church have been the Rev. Damman, the Rev. Hugo Grimm, the Rev. J. Richard Schmidt, the Rev. Schwenk, the Rev. Bruch, the Rev. Krieger and the Rev. Paul Friedrich.

The church is celebrating their Jubilee, or 75th anniversary, this year.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AS IT STANDS TODAY

METHODIST CHURCH

We find records of services being held in the fall of 1870 in a school house that had been built on the northeast quarter of section 33 in Reading Township.

A little later services were held in the Tarbox schoolhouse on Sec. 11 in a school house that was the first one to be erected in what is now Washington Township, but was then a part of Buncombe Township. Whether the two groups were in any way connected, we do not know, but the Rev. Batchelor of the Methodist Episcopal Church was in charge of that in Reading Township.

About 1874 a building was erected on the southeast corner of Sec. 7, where a plot had been laid out for a community cemetery.

In 1884, Ireton having been established and the congregation growing, this building was moved to town and put on a lot at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets. In a short time this building was found to be too small, so it was moved again to Elm Street and converted into a residence.

A new church edifice was erected and barely dedicated when a cyclone hit the area and caused damage to the building. Then in 1892 the spire was struck by lightning and badly damaged. Finally in January of 1904 the new church was completely destroyed by fire.



Another larger church was erected at the same location and it, too, was destroyed by fire in April of 1922. But the Methodists never gave up. Plans were begun immediately for the erecting of a larger church built of brick. It still stands.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reading Township has a German Evangelical Lutheran Church known to us as St. John's Lutheran Church. It was established in 1875 with a membership of seven families. Services were held in homes a while, then in a school house until 1884 when a church was built on a 40 acre tract located in the southeast quarter of Sec. 15, which had been acquired for church, school and cemetery purposes. In 1888 a parsonage was added, and in 1894 a school house was built near for religious instructions.

These have all been remodeled and beautifully landscaped, and taken care of in such a way that it is known as one of the beauty spots of this area.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The Christian Reformed Church was organized in 1908. Church services were held for a few weeks in the City Hall. The Center Chapel, four miles north, that had been used years before by Methodists was bought and plans made to move it to the location just east of the public school. The Missionary Pastor, the Rev. P. Van Vleet, served the congregation, and, after moving his family to Ireton in June, their worship services were held in the United Presbyterian Church until their church would be ready for occupancy.

About that time two barns were built to care for the horses that carried the members to services. Next, a parsonage was built, the contract given to Wm. Reid.

The Rev. Hallebeck then became pastor and during his five years of ministry the congregation grew so rapidly that during the pastorate of the Rev. F. Schurman a new church was built.

The old church building was moved across the street and served as a Christian School building until a larger, more modern building could be attained. This has been enlarged once since, and is a beautiful building with a large playground.

During the Rev. W. Terpsma's pastorate from November of 1918 until November of 1925, the congregation was in a transition period from the Holland to the English language.

Later ministers were the Rev. Van Farrowe, the Rev. J. R. Van Dyke, the Rev. P. Ouwinga, the Rev. John Hulst and several students. The present pastor is the Rev. Alfred Hannink.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The United Presbyterian congregation was organized by the Rev. J. A. Montellth of

the College Springs Presbytery, assisted by the Rev. J.D. Graham on November 2, 1883 with 17 members. No record has been found that tells where they held services, but a contract between Philo B. Warfield and the trustees of the new congregation, dated the 17th of September 1885 agrees that Mr. Warfield build a church building on the corner of Fourth and Elm Streets. This church was completed and used for many years. But with a change of population it was disbanded in 1920. The building still stands, minus the steeple, and is used by other interests.

The present First Presbyterian Church was built in 1901-02 with a small group of the early day pioneers who hadn't found a church home here that met the needs of their training. The church has grown in membership and decreased several times as the older members have passed on, and the younger people have gone out into the world. But its influence has been felt, for ministers have gone out from this church, missionaries have gone to foreign fields and many have established Christian homes and are bringing up good citizens.

There are none of the charter members now living.



THE OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BUILDING ABANDONED IN 1920

BANDS

We have had bands come and go; but the band that really attracted the most attention in this area was a band organized by Lee D. Maynard, our editor, in the early 1900 period.

They were very good and greatly in demand at all kinds of celebrations in all of Northwest Iowa.

These were boys who were 16 years of age and under, although we have often wondered about the drummers.



In their dark red suits they were really a snappy-looking group, even if small in number as bands go now-a-days.

They were together for several years until several left the community after graduation.

OUR EARLY INDUSTRY

One son, Herman, of the Hodam family, early day settlers, was a blind boy. When he reached the age to be taught a trade, he was sent to Vinton to the State School for the Blind. Here he learned the art of broom-making. His family built a building where he worked at his trade. He was a very adept and perceptive man, and would walk the mile or so into town carrying an armload of his brooms. He supplied the stores, and many of the homemakers bought directly from him. He made good brooms, and many of us would like to get one now, "...as good as Herman's"

No one ever heard a complaint about his lot in life. He was a faithful church member; and he never passed a building where he wanted to stop. We have seen him explaining to a blind friend just where each merchant or other business men were located, as they walked down the street, and he never made a mistake about it.

When the South Dakota fever swept the country and took many of our friends to seek greener pastures, the Hodam family, too, went to South Dakota taking Herman with them.

FINE STOCK

In the early part of the twentieth century, a number of the farmers around Ireton became interested in pedigreed stock. In Washington Township M. A. Karr had a

fine herd of Black Angus cattle on the Cloverdale Stock Farm. Anton Pierre had named his farm, with Clydesdale Horses, "Forest View Stock Farm." Byron Lawton on Ash Grove Stock Farm specialized in Shorthorn and Durham cattle, and Poland China hogs. The McNally Bros. had always had a big herd of Black Angus cattle. D. G. Johnson of Evergreen Farm and C. R. McCrory of Eagle Township always kept a good herd of Shorthorn milk cows.

In Center Township R. C. Brown had Hereford cattle and Hugh Irwin had Duroc Jersey hogs. But the most attention was led to the Shorthorn cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs of C. R. Steele of Willow Lane Stock Farm. He held large sales on his farm, attracting buyers from a wide area. Later he delt in Percheron and Clydesdale horses.

Ben Mauw of Walnut Grove Farm raised Coach horses and Hamilton horses. The two men showed their stock at fairs all over the state and beyond. Hugh Irwin had Duroc Jersey hogs. Louis Vander Hamm was perhaps the largest breeder of hogs in Reading Township, his strain being the Duroc Jersey.

For pure interest and amusement for children was the pursuit of David Hammond who raised Shetland ponies. These he had until he moved to California, and many were the youngsters around the country who owned ponies from that famous group. Chris Bushby carried on the tradition until he was no longer able to take care of them. J. W. Bushby and sons also had a number of those ponies.

The J. R. Karr sons had one of Mr. Hammond's ponies for many years. On losing her, they bought a pedigreed mare and stallion from the Welty Farm at Nevada, Iowa and raised ponies for years. Two interesting things have been noted in their experience. One was the fact that the railroad company had a rule that pedigreed horses couldn't be shipped in the same railroad car as anything else. So when a small Shetland mare and two-month colt came into town in a stock car termed a "carload of horses," it caused quite a stir among the townspeople.

Another instance of interest was the fact that one of the Karr ponies, a very small one, was sold and shipped to England for use in the coal mines about 1940.

A number of the citizens of town kept fine driving horses for pleasure driving, and the first Shetland pony and cart in town was owned by the T. C. Collins children.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC

Epidemics still come and go in spite of medical science, and the early settlers had their share. But the two most serious ones were the smallpox and diphtheria epidemics. Diphtheria hit many homes, but the smallpox epidemic was of farther-reaching and more serious proportions.

We have records of the disease hitting people in the winter of 1880-81, but it hit this area the following winter. People didn't know what it was and weren't properly cautious. They had to go to Sioux City, LeMars, Elk Point, etc. for their supplies. A Mr. Sprague, who lived on Sec. 1, Washington Township, had returned from a trip to LeMars and became ill. When his two little girls became seriously sick a doctor was called from Calltope. He diagnosed the case as measles. Neighbors looked after the needs of the family. Mr. Sprague recovered, but both little girls died. Mr. and Mrs. Sprague were so discouraged that they moved to a home several miles east.

No sooner had they become settled when the third little girl in the family became ill. By this time friends were beginning to become suspicious because they had never seen measles that looked like this. So a doctor from LeMars was called. The case was not well enough developed, but he thought it very likely to be smallpox.

Some of the kind neighbors who had helped had had vaccinations of a sort in their childhood or youth, but many had not, so there was a "vaccination rush." The third little Sprague girl died, as did a Mrs. Hilton who had helped them. Mr. Sprague recovered from the disease but died shortly afterward.

Another neighbor who had helped was Chas. P. Tarbox. He died of smallpox March 20, 1882 and was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

A Mrs. Kellogg, who lived on what is now the Lloyd Ellis place, was a victim, as was Harve McCormick who lived on the northwest quarter of Sec. 8.

Many others, of whom we now have no record, may have become victims. Mr. Kellogg lived out the rest of his life in a sanatorium, a charge of the state of New York which was his original home. His condition was brought on by the worry that he had brought the disease to his wife after helping to care for the Sprague family.

CYCLONE OF 1895

Some of our older people can still tell stories of the hard-hitting cyclone that occurred about 3:00 the afternoon of May 3, 1895.

It was a hot, muggy day with spells of rain. The storm started in the area where Marvin Schmidt now lives, traveling in a north - easterly direction.

First damage done was on the Coombs homestead, now owned by Ted DeJong. Mr. Coombs saw the storm coming and insisted that his family and a salesman from Hawarden, who happened to be in the yard, go to the cave. The salesman, who insisted he wasn't afraid, got into the cave stairway and was whipped out by the wind and carried over the grove. Needless to say, he scuttled for home as soon as he could after the extent of the storm was taken in. Mr. Coomb's barns were blown away and his house damaged.

Across the road, and a little to the north, School #8 of Center Township was completely demolished. The teacher, Anna Marsden, was killed, and one of the five Coombs children in school was so badly injured that she died a few hours later.

R.J. Smith, living a little north of the school, told of seeing the building go and in seconds his own house was badly damaged.

The storm traveled on to a Wynia farm where a baby was killed and the mother seriously injured.

Then on, northeast, it hit the Hagge homestead in Sec. 23 where it destroyed all the buildings. One roof caught one of the sons under it, bruising him. The family couldn't find him afterwards until a dog barked and showed them where to look.

One son, Herman, a small boy, was in school a quarter of a mile away. The teacher, George Marsden, was killed. Herman received a broken leg and crawled home on hands and knees after the storm.

The two teachers, Anna and George Marsden, were a brother and sister from Wisconsin.

It seems that the storm covered an area, a mile wide and about six miles long. Mud was plastered on the southwest side of fence posts by the winds. When sight-seeing was done following the destruction great hunks of the mud were taken home as souvenirs.

CYCLONE OF 1928

Thirty-three years later another cyclone hit Ireton, coming from the southwest and

blowing down many trees in the western part of town, especially on the street south of the J. R. Smith residence. Mr. Smith, whose home on the farm had been so badly damaged and turned a quarter-way around on the foundation in 1895, had moved into town and thought that this time history was surely repeating itself.

A block east, Henry Braaks sensed the storm coming and thought he had better go to his home a block north on Elm Street. A gust came along and helped him by picking him up and setting him in an apple tree in his own yard. He wasn't hurt, just surprised.

Many trees were torn out and broken on across the town. Then the storm passed on north damaging the roofs of the barns on Fred Kluter's farm, a quarter mile north of the depot.

Again the storm lifted coming down two miles north to take the roof off of George Bartlett's barn, then on again for several miles where much damage was done on the Winterfield farms. The swath taken by the storm wasn't very wide, and men filling silo at the J.M. Grau farm watched the buildings a quarter mile away being lifted in the air.

No lives were lost, but some stock, including horses, were killed.

GRASSHOPPER RAID

The early settlers met with many discouragements, such as prairie fires, blizzards and often a cyclone; but one of the most destructive and of long duration was the grasshopper raid.

They came, so writers say, in "clouds" and devoured everything except green peas which they would not eat. They laid their eggs which hatched the next spring. This went on for about six years.

The manner in which they damaged the different kinds of crops varied. They chewed the wheat below the head, letting it fall to the ground. They ate the small files supporting the grain of the oats; and they ate the tassels and silks of the corn. One or two of these years only about a half a crop was taken. Root crops, especially onions, were often eaten into the ground.

Needless to say, many of the homesteaders became so discouraged that if they had any means at all they left the country. Others had to hang on.

This brings the reminder that about 20 years ago we thought we might be faced with another grasshopper disaster, but Science had figured out a poison that could be

mixed with bran to feed the visitor, and much damage was averted.

THE MYSTERY OF THE NEGRO MINISTER

Every community, they say, has a mystery story, and Ireton is no exception. In the fall of 1905, a young man was picking corn by hand in a field on the northwest quarter of Sec. 18 and discovered a body partly decomposed. On examination they found it to be that of a negro man. Rumors had it that a negro preacher had been seen around some time before, and that a traveling organ salesman had been seen leaving Hawarden with a negro in his buggy. No other evidence has ever been found. I. N. Goin, Sr. was marshal here at the time and to him it was a pretty scary situation.

"BUFFALO BILL"

A unique character came into our area soon after the turn of the century, and some have said no history of Ireton would be complete without a mention of him.

No one really knew just where he came from or why; and I venture to say that not many people ever really knew his name. He was a most loquacious person and entertained all the young fry who were allowed to hear his stories.

Although he didn't seem to have much of this world's goods, and certainly never looked as though he were taken care of or took care of himself, I don't think he asked for charity.

As an occupation he did the drudgery jobs around town that people didn't want to do for themselves.

He was called, "Buffalo Bill" because of the yarns he spun about places he had seen. One story we remember his telling was that he could move any fence-post hole and make a concrete cistern of it.

BIOGRAPHIES

A VISIT WITH "GRANDMA" BERTRAM

Louisa Kluter was born at Guttenberg, Iowa on July 28, 1870. She was the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kluter, who with their two children, Charles and Louisa,

came to Sioux County in 1871. They built a sod house on the east side of Sec. 6 in Reading Township. A little later they replaced it with a log house, hauling the logs from the Rock River.

As the family grew they built a larger home changing the location to the south side of the quarter section where the again-remodeled house and farmstead still stands, for many years being the home of the younger son, Fred. It is now occupied by Fred's son, Arthur, and his family.

Louisa's name appears on the attendance roll of the Tarbox school two miles west. But when the settlers in Sections 7 and 8 of Reading Township decided they needed a school nearer, Mr. Kluter, Mr. Elder, Mr. Shimer and the Fosburgs contributed time and money and built a school on the corner of Mr. Kluter's land in Section 6.

Louisa got her religious training in Grant Township, Plymouth County, going there for two years and staying in the minister's home. She said it was 12 miles from home, and she often didn't get home for two or three weeks if the weather was bad.

On being asked if she saw Indians and if they had any trouble with them, she told us that the only thing they ever asked for was feed for their ponies. One time the three children, Chas., Louisa and Will, were at home alone and a band of Indians stopped. Will was terribly frightened, but she took some sacks, filled them with oats and gave them to the visitors who went on their way.

She told of her father going to the Rock River to get young trees to set out their grove. She remembers how they did their own butchering and caring for the meat; and of how they made their own soap. She told of burning corn for fuel one winter as coal had to be hauled from LeMars.

She also told of her father coming home one night from LeMars after a particularly hard trip, and finding he would have to go at once to get Mrs. Hodam. She lived on the place south of what was to be Ireton. After she arrived there and got things organized, a new member of the Kluter family had arrived. No doctors were where they could be called and Mrs. Hadom was wonderful help. She remembers the small pox epidemic because it hit pretty close. The Mrs. Kellogg who died, just north of their first home, the sod house, lived where Lloyd Ellits now lives. She also tells of the railroad being built while the grading was being done between Ireton and Hawarden, the workmen occupied tents on the hill where the Ireton school now stands. She carried butter and eggs to them which they had

bought from her mother.

The day the first train was to go through, they eagerly watched for the first sight of smoke in the east. When they finally saw it, little brother Fred couldn't see it so Louisa held him high in her arms to see the first train go through Ireton.

She also told us of the marriage of a young minister who served the St. Paul's congregation when they were still using the first church building. The bride-to-be was to come to Ireton for the ceremony, accompanied by her mother. Since the church building was far too small for a proper wedding for the minister, Mr. and Mrs. Kluter offered the use of their home. It was accepted and Mrs. Kluter and the mother got busy preparing food, especially baking the wedding cake.

Louisa grew to womanhood and married Charles Bertram, moving to the southwest quarter of the same section on which her father had made his home. The Bertrams obtained this from Mr. Darling, who was moving to California. Here they built a comfortable home. Their oldest son was in World War I and gave up his life for his country. His was the first death of our Ireton servicemen and the American Legion Post is named in honor of him. Two other children are Lorenz and Irene, (Mrs. Henry Ellts).

After the children had grown and wanted to establish homes of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Bertram built a cottage on the farm and moved into it, leaving the larger home for Lorenz. Here, Mr. Bertram died in August of 1933.

Mrs. Bertram continues to make the cottage her home except for the last two winters she has gone into town to be company for her daughter, whose husband had died, but when spring comes, she wants to go back to her flowers and garden. She is a joy to visit with and delights in showing her rugs, crocheted and braided, that she spends hours in doing. She reads and watches television and, like all of us, has her favorite programs. She wishes she could have remembered to tell us more. She will soon be 91 years old.

L.M. BLACK

Levi Marvis Black was born in Henry Co. Indiana January 15, 1842, where he grew to manhood. After the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the 57th Indiana Infantry, and served until his discharge from service.

In March, 1871, he came to Sioux Co. with his invalid wife and two sons, Enoch and Harley. He located on a homestead in Washington Twp. He taught school at var-

ious times and was elected county auditor in 1873 and served one term.



When the town of Ireton started, he moved here and entered the mercantile business. He was appointed the first postmaster of Ireton, serving a number of years and later served again.

When the G. A. R. Post was mustered in October, 1883, he served as the first post commander and was a member of Sioux Lodge, No. 477 A. F. and A. M.

He was active in politics many years, a staunch and unswerving Republican and no one ever had need to wonder where he stood on any public question or issue. He took his positions boldly, was ready to sound a triumphant note in victory and if he chanced to be on the losing side, he went down with flying colors. This trait won for him, not only a large following of loyal friends, but the respect of his political foes. He served as the town's mayor, was on an early day schoolboard, gave advice on legal matters, when the town had no lawyer.

And when he passed away at the age of 82, the "Tall Willow from Reading Twp." left hundreds of friends, who mourned his passing, along with a wife, three sons and two daughters, Enoch, Harley, Morris, Ollie (Mrs. Paul) and Fannie Kluter. They too, have all passed on, but each one of the Black family left an indelible mark in the history of Ireton.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY BRAAKS

Henry Braaks has been one of the outstanding businessmen of Ireton. He was the son of Habbie Wiard Braaks, who was born at Peersum, Ostfriesland, Germany and who came from a long line of blacksmiths. A father, two uncles, a grandfather and a great grandfather were smithies in Germany.

The older Mr. Braaks came to America and to Ireton in 1887 with his family. Young

Henry was five years old. His father opened a blacksmith shop where the present post office building stands but it burned in November, 1888. The shop was rebuilt at the corner of Fourth and Elm Streets and was operated until his death in 1923.

Henry began work in the shop when he was 15 and after his father's death, took over the business with his brother, Carl.

They ran the blacksmith shop together for eight years when Carl decided to take up farming. Mechanization on farms had gradually cut the business but there was still need for the blacksmith shop and service has continued uninterrupted.

In November, 1945, the shop again burned but much of the equipment had been moved to the old opera house, which had been purchased some time before and the old shop was used largely for storage. His sons, Carl and Louis went into the business with their father. Now Mr. Braaks has retired and the sons are carrying on but he is very satisfied if his grandsons will drop the family traditions.



He married Anna Amen at Wilcox, Nebr. in 1910 and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August. Besides the two boys, they have two daughters, Mrs. Katherine Degen of Del Rio, Texas and Mrs. Erma Flippin of San Bernardino, California. They have been very active in civic affairs. Mr. Braaks became a member of the Volunteer Fire Department of Ireton in 1906 and was chief for many years. He also has been active in the Northwest Iowa Blacksmith Association and has served as its president.

CHRIS B. BUSHBY

Mr. Bushby came to Reading Twp. in 1884 at the age of 7. He was a son of Wm. Bushby, who was born in England and came to the U.S. in 1847, also at the age of 7. His family settled in Wisconsin, later coming to Sioux County. He reared his family on the farm directly south of Ireton. His children received their education in the local schools, several of them becoming school teachers. Chris was of these, teaching in the winters and pursuing agricultural lines in the summers. He was one of the Bushby Bros. who owned one of the early threshing machines. He married Flora Day, a neighbor's daughter on February 18, 1908. Mrs. Day was the daughter of another early settler, E. R. Day. Mr. Bushby has farmed continuously until a few years ago when he built a modern home on the farm where they had lived so long, known as the "Hammond Farm". Here they expect to live out their years among charming surroundings, with time to think and tell one of his experiences as a breeder of Shetland ponies, as he followed the pattern of David Hammond who had started the pony herd.

He also can tell of school experiences as he served as a secretary of the Reading Twp. schoolboard over a period of 35 years. We think, next to Fred Earll, a former resident of Washington Twp., who served as school secretary for 51 years, he holds an unmatched record.

Mr. and Mrs. Bushby are the parents of two children, Mrs. Bernice Wood of Aladdin, Wyoming and Harry, at home.

MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK FRANKE

These people were two of the early settlers who came to northwest Iowa and endured the hardships of the pioneers. Mr. Franke was born July 4th, 1839 in the province of Hanover, Germany. Here, he grew up and not relishing the idea of going into the military service, which he would be required to, he came to America at the age of 17, settling at Guttenberg, Iowa. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in Co. D of the 27th Iowa Regiment. He took part in many major battles, among which was the fall of Vicksburg.

At the close of the war, he received an honorable discharge at Clinton, Iowa and returned to Guttenberg where he married Mrs. Mary Dene the next year. The family came to Sioux County in 1872 and took a homestead in West Branch Twp. at the West edge of Sec. 30. They went through all the ex-

periences that befell the homesteaders of that day, hard winters, blizzards, prairie fires in summer and of course, the grasshoppers.



They moved to Ireton in 1901, where their home, lawn and garden kept them busy and contented.

Mrs. Franke, too, had been born in Germany and came to America as a child, settling in Clayton Co., Iowa. She died in 1912 and Mr. Franke died in 1920.

They reared six children to manhood and womanhood. One son died in his teens.

Mr. Franke was one of the charter members of Launtz Post No. 215 G.A.R. of Ireton and was very active in it. Shortly before he died, he served as one of a committee to get the monument of the soldier that stands now in the cemetery and which serves as the center of the gathering place while the graves of all our soldiers of our wars are being decorated on Memorial Day.

MRS. JASON D. FERGUSON (ANGIE ELDER)

In the year 1868, when Northwest Iowa was opened up to homesteaders, Mr. Marshall M. Elder was one of the young men who drove oxen to Sioux County and filed on a homestead. Two years later, he brought his bride, the former Polly Stough, to live in the log cabin he has built on his farm. In the cabin, on May 7, 1874, Angeline Jane the second daughter of the couple was born. She graduated from high school with the first graduating class in 1890 and went to Iowa State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls. She then taught in the VanderHamm school but went back to the University of Michigan in order to get a secondary teacher's certificate. She then taught in the Alton and Ireton High Schools.

While she was teaching here, a young man, Mr. Jason D. Ferguson, came to visit his father's friend, the Elder family, and

worked for them on the farm and taught school a year in Sioux County. On April 15, 1903, they were married.



Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson continued to live here on a farm two miles northwest of town. They became the parents of four children LaVere, Genevieve, Elder Leroy and Hiram Hillis.

In 1910, Jason and Angie Ferguson decided to pioneer for themselves and homesteaded in South Dakota. At that time, there were no railroads in that section of South Dakota so Mr. Ferguson loaded two hay racks with machinery and drove the teams 400 miles to Eagle Butte. He had an extra team of good horses but one night Indians stole his best mare and one horse died. He got there with enough equipment to plant his first crop. They lived there for ten years, during which time World War I broke out and Mrs. Ferguson again became a school teacher.

With their future in doubt, Mrs. Ferguson went to visit her parents in California in the summer of 1920. She got a job teaching there and Mr. Ferguson sold out. He took the children in a Model T and started for California. They left South Dakota Nov. 11, 1920 and came back through Iowa, hitting rainy weather and drove through 1200 miles of mud. One day in Missouri on the cannon ball trail, they started at daybreak and by noon had gone 5 miles. Newly worked roads

were so bad they even went down hill in places in low gear. When they met a car, a track had to be made and one car driven onto it while the other went by. Paved roads were limited to the cities and a few miles beyond. They reached California after six weeks of driving.

Mr. Ferguson again took up the carpenter trade but after a few short years, died. Then Hiram, the youngest son, died of pneumonia. Angie continued teaching and after her family was grown, moved in with her aged parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elder.

After her father's death, she again returned to Ireton in 1942 and made the farm where she and her husband first settled, home. She was very active and lived on the farm through World War II. After the war was over, she enjoyed traveling and visiting friends around here and in California.

Her busy life stopped quickly one day in 1950 when she fell on some steps and broke her hip. It was six months before she could walk again. Her sister Mabel, Mrs. Ben Bay lives on the original Elder homestead and brought her home to convalesce.

At the present time, Mrs. Jason Ferguson, at the age of 87, still lives with the Imray family on the Ferguson farm.

MRS. CHRISTINA JOHNSTON

This person had the reputation of having spanked more new born babies and heard their first cries than anyone else. She was Mrs. W.S. Johnston, familiarly known as "Tillie". She was a daughter of the late Frederick Franke and a sister of a well known Center Twp. farmer, Elmer Franke. She was born in Clayton Co. near Guttenberg, Iowa. As a child of three years, she came to Sioux County with her parents when they settled on a homestead and went through all the hardships of the pioneers. She told of spending many evenings twisting hay into bundles for fuel. Coal had to be hauled from LeMars and it was a long trip and not too many people had money for coal. She also has told her family of the cold and snow endured and the scare of prairie fires. Another scare was the raids of the James brothers, who had "holed up" one winter near LeMars and would ride as far north as where Sioux Center now is, for exercise and scouting.

About 1883, she went to town to work and in 1887 she married one of the young carpenters who had moved in, Wm. Johnston. They built a home in the west part of town and building a larger one about ten

years later, moved to the extreme southeast part of town in a newly platted area.

When her five children were old enough to leave, she began to act as a practical nurse, as trained nurses were scarce, hospitals too far away for maternity cases, and doctors needed help badly. She spent many years in nursing until her health failed. Her husband became paralytic for five years before his death in 1923. She died in December, 1954.



Her children are: Mrs. J.R. Karr of Ireton; W.R. Johnston of Austin, Minn.; Mrs. Ira Levering of LeMars; Mrs. A.H. Twillman of Ireton and Arthur Johnston of Lincoln, Nebr.

MEINT JOHNSON

Meint Johnson was one of those sturdy men who helped make Sioux County what it is.

Mr. Johnson was a son of Harm M. Johnson and Gebbe D. Johnson, and the eldest of a family of eight children.

He was born in Felde Ostfriesland, Germany on April 13, 1850 and lived to be 78 years old.

He came with his parents to America in 1856 at the age of six, settling at Mt. Olive, Ill. where his boyhood was spent. In 1879 he married Mary Engel at Harvel, Ill.

They came to Sioux County in 1889 locating west of town where they lived four years. Then they purchased a farm northeast of Ireton where they lived until 1911 when they retired and moved to Ireton. He had been a faithful and constant member

of the Lutheran Church for many years.

Twelve children were born to them, one of whom, a daughter, died in infancy and one son, George, died at the age of five years.

Ten children survived him; Herman of Havelock, N. D.; Mrs. Alice Ellts of Hawarden; Mrs. Anna Vlotho of Ireton; Mrs. Etta Gebner of Maynard, Minn.; John R. of Ireton; Ed of Ireton; Fred and Dave of Rock Valley; and Mrs. Rose Moeller and Elmer of Ireton.



MR. AND MRS. GERRIT JUFFER

Mr. and Mrs. Juffer have lived in Ireton the forty one years of their married life. He came here as a young man and worked in the Security Savings Bank, which had been established by Danforths of Yankton, with Geo. Campbell as cashier.

He brought his bride and established their home in the south part of town. When the depression years hit after the drop in prices following the stock market crash of 1929, causing many banks to close, Mr. Juffer weathered through and was able to carry on as cashier. Today he is president of the bank and two of his sons are connected with it, with Mrs. Ila Smith Bolsen and Miss Yvonne Van Wyhe assistants.

Mrs. Juffer is a musician of much talent and has the satisfaction of seeing several of her children inheriting that talent.

Mr. Juffer brought a distinct honor to Ireton when he was named "National Father of the Year" by members of the Lions Club in 1959. They have given all their children excellent educational opportunities. Several of the boys served in the Armed Forces. Their children are: Theo A. of Omaha, Preston and Gerald of Ireton, Dr. H. G. of Decorah, Donald of Wagner, South Dakota, Dr. A. A. of Sibley, Marvin of Iowa City, Leo of Boston, Mass., Mrs. Ruth Young of Onawa, Verla of Iowa City and Elna at home.

They are an unusually talented family and their parents can justly be proud of them and any honors that come to them as parents of such a family. Ireton is proud of them. They are active in all community affairs, church and school. Mr. Juffer was the president of the Ireton Independent School for many years and held that position when the school reorganized.



MR. & MRS. J. R. KARR

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Karr were born in the Ireton area, he, on a farm in Eagle Twp. and she, in town. They received their education in the local schools, she being a graduate in 1904 and then a student at Iowa State Teachers' College and he was a student at Tarkio College, Tarkio, Missouri. Mrs. Karr was assistant postmaster in Ireton for several years when Levi Black was postmaster for the second term. Mr. Karr was a member of the clothing firm of Karr and Taylor for a number of years. They were married in 1909 and went to eastern Colorado and homesteaded. They still have their homestead and visit it nearly every year. After completing their filing requirements, they returned to Ireton and have lived on a farm since. They have taken part in church, community, school and farm organization affairs.

Mr. Karr has been keenly interested in rural schools and served in all offices for over 45 years. He was on the building committees for 14 of the modern rural schools in Center, Eagle and Washington Twp. He served several terms on the old AAA farm program committees and several terms on the FHA program in an advisory capacity.

Mrs. Karr helped organize the Woman's Civic Club in Ireton in 1916 and was recently honored in the state as having been a continuous member of a Federated Club. She served a number of years as a member of the State Women's Committee of the Farm Bureau.

She was honored in 1947 by the Journal-Tribune of Sioux City as a "Woman of Achievement." She has also been a member of the Sioux County Board of Education for almost 25 years.

They have six sons. Hallis, farmer and stockman, is at home. J. Leland is a special employee of the F.B.I. in Chicago. Dr. J. Thurlow is a Business Administrator in the schools of Gary, Ind. Lyman is a Boy Scout Executive Director of Roanoke, Va. Weston R. is Assistant Manager of the Plymouth County R.E.A. at LeMars, Ia. and Kenyon is a farmer and stockman of Ireton.

If you ask Mr. or Mrs. Karr what their hobbies are, either will say, "Our children."

FRED KLUTER

Fred Kluter was born on the family homestead, directly north of Ireton, on August 31, 1877. Here, he grew up, received his education in the local schools and took up his vocation of farming. He married Fannie Black, the daughter of Levi Black, another homesteader, on February 19, 1902. They were the parents of three children; two sons, Morris and Arthur and one daughter, Olive. Olive died when she was a sophomore in high school. Mrs. Kluter died two years later, in 1931. Mr. Kluter continued living on the farm making a home for his two sons. Mr. and Mrs. Kluter were always very much interested in the local schools, doing many fine things for the school and the instructors. Mr. Kluter served as a member of the school board for over 38 years, until the Ireton Independent Schools became a part of the West Sioux Community School District.

Mr. Kluter had bought the small building that had served as the early day St. Paul's Church and later the church school, moving it to a lot on Main Street, not far from the church. He remodeled it and made a comfortable small home, intending to occupy it. His son, Arthur, had taken over the farm and Morris had moved to Altoona, Ia. A period of ill health caused him to leave the neat little home two years ago and go to Altoona to be with Morris. He has regained the usual health and continues to live there but he is still keenly interested in the home town.



H. E. ONKEN

Mr. Onken was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1871, settling in Illinois at the age of 21. While there, he met Margaret Ricklefs, also an immigrant from Germany. They both then moved to Sioux County and were the first couple married from St. Johns Lutheran Church. They homesteaded on the Onken farm in Reading Twp., Sec. #1 in 1878.



RESIDENCE OF H. E. ONKEN.

Despite many hardships, they maintained their home though there were times when they thought about leaving. The prairie sod had to be broken for the first crops only to see grasshoppers plague them. In those early winters blizzards swept the county with no trees for a windbreak. Mr.

Onken worked to set out a grove, getting the seedling trees from the Sioux River bottoms.

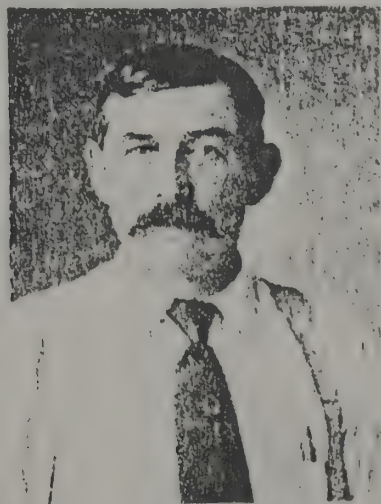
They lost their first born son, who was 3 years old, because medical help couldn't reach them soon enough. We remember the closest doctor was at LeMars and this trip had to be made by wagon.

They owned a great luxury - a rocking chair which they loaned to neighbors whenever a new baby was born in the area.

There were 11 children, still living. They are: Gerd in California, Reiner in Ireton, Mrs. John Toenjes of Ireton, Mrs. Emelie Schulz in LeMars, Mrs. Fred Schmidt of LeMars, Laura Lehrman in Orange City and Andy in Ireton.

MR. AND MRS. F. W. MARIENAU

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Marienau were German people who had been married in Grant Twp. of Plymouth County and came here when their first child, Ben, was four months old. He worked for some time in the Zimmerman store and then set up a general store with his brother, Will, finally taking over the business on his own.



He was a very active man and keenly interested in the affairs of the community, although by nature, a very quiet man. He was a charter member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and saw it grow from the membership of a few members to the strong church that it is now.

He was also a charter member of the Ireton Volunteer Fire Department and served as its chief from 1907 to 1939 when he had to resign because of poor health. His wife died in 1941 and Mr. Marienau died in 1943. There were five children: Ben, John and Will, all deceased and Mrs. Zana Holtdorf of Ireton and Fred of Akron.

MR. AND MRS. R. S. MILLER

R. S. Miller was born August, 1874 in Illinois and came to Iowa with his parents in 1884 when they settled on a farm in Center Twp.

Mrs. Miller (Mary Coombs) was born in Benton County, April 15, 1882 and came to this vicinity in 1883 when her parents located on a farm in Center Twp. They both were educated in the local elementary school and then attended several terms of college at Cedar Falls. Later, they taught school near here for some time.

In the spring of 1901, she moved with her parents to a farm east of Olds, Canada. In September of 1901, Mr. Miller went to Canada where they married and came back to the farm in Center Twp. They have continued farming ever since. Although they moved into Ireton in 1944, they have carried on the operation of the farm with their son, Kenneth. Mr. Miller has also carried on an extensive insurance business in which he is still interested. They are both active in community and church affairs. They are the parents of two sons, Glen of Bellflower, California and Kenneth of Ireton and two daughters, Mrs. Viola Hughes of Ireton and Mrs. Marian Riley of Madison, So. Dakota. Mrs. Lucile Goodman was also her daughter and has passed away.



They have 30 grandchildren and 39 great grandchildren. They will observe their 60th wedding anniversary this Sept. second.

MR. AND MRS. L. D. SATTERLEE

Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee have recently observed their 65th wedding anniversary and are recognized as Ireton's oldest wedded couple.

Mr. Satterlee, whose parents were Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Satterlee, was born on the family homestead about six miles southeast of Ireton on May 27, 1873. He was the

fourth of a family of nine boys. He received his education in the local schools and when he was 18 years old, he taught school for one year. Deciding that wasn't the life for him, he took up photography, working in Hawarden three years and then moved his equipment to Ireton where he operated for several years.

He then entered into the furniture business for Ed Fair and studying the undertaker business. After five years, he bought out Mr. Fair and continued for 56 years.

In 1957, he received a plaque from the Northwestern Funeral Directors' Association honoring him for 50 years or more in the undertaking profession. He is the only one in this state to receive one.

A short time ago, he sold to his son, Roland, who has been helping him for some time but he hasn't really retired for he helps Roland.

A few years ago, he took up oil painting and a number of homes have some of his pictures. It proved a fascinating and relaxing hobby for him.

He has been very active in the development of the town where he has lived for so many years. He has held nearly every public office in the government of the town except that of dog catcher. He also served on the school board as a member and as its president. He has been active in his church and has had heavy responsibilities there for that church, the Methodist, suffered severe losses several times from cyclones and fires.

Mrs. Satterlee was born in Riceville, Wisconsin in 1875. In her early years, her parents moved to Kansas, then to Missouri. As a young woman, she, with several sisters, came to Sioux County where she met the young photographer.



They were married April 29, 1896 and have made their home in Ireton ever since. In spite of their years, they are both fairly active and enjoy their home and flowers. They have two daughters, Mrs. Fern Hooper of Hartley and Mrs. Madge Montgomery of North Hollywood, Calif. and two sons, Wylie of Marcus and Roland of Ireton. There are three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. D. R. STEWART

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart came to Ireton in 1884 from Audubon, Iowa. With them was their small daughter, Alberta, known to us as Birdie, who later became Mrs. Frank Noon.

Daniel Reed Stewart was born at Mansfield, Prince Edward Island, Canada on Jan. 28, 1857 and died at his home in Ireton Feb. 26, 1923. He was the third child in a family of thirteen, born to Donald and Priscilla Stewart. He was a carriage maker by trade and at the age of 22, he left home to seek his fortune in the United States and landed in Chicago. What he found there was the charred remains of the great Chicago fire. Undaunted, he left there for Clinton, Iowa then on to Des Moines. Here, he became convinced of the need of a blacksmith in the vast farming country. He went into business for himself and located in Audubon. In September of 1880 he married Alice M. Everett in Atlantic and settled in a home in Audubon. In 1884 they moved to Ireton and purchased a blacksmith shop. At that time, his shop was the only building east of Main Street except the school house on the hill. He built his home where it still stands and is occupied by his granddaughter, Frances Noon. His was a kindly and considerate disposition and he readily made friends and he had great faith in Ireton and its growth.

He was one of those who drove overland many miles to procure the saplings to help bring beauty to the town. During the years, acquired a considerable portion of business and residential properties as well as a farm. He held a charter membership in the I. O. O. F. and was a member of the Masonic and Woodmen Lodges for many years.

Mrs. Stewart was an able helpmate and was as keenly interested in the growth of Ireton as her husband. For many years, she operated a restaurant in the building next to the blacksmith shop. She had been born at Ft. Wayne, Ind. and shortly after the Civil War, the family migrated to Atlantic, Iowa.

She passed away in January, 1945, leav-

ing the one daughter, Mrs. Noon and nine grandchildren. Much of their property still remains in the hands of these grandchildren.



MAJOR MARTIN SUTER

Major Suter was a Civil War veteran who came to the Ireton vicinity in his latter years. He was born in 1820 so had a good many years on this earth when he died in 1917. He came to Chicago from Baltimore several years after his discharge from the Army. He spent about twenty years there and then came to Sioux County to be with some of his children. The last few years he spent in the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. Lou Twillman. Up to a short time before his death, he was active and alert braiding rugs and chopping smaller sticks of wood for fires. He had an unusual facial adornment, a long white beard and often would roll it up and tuck it into his vest when he was doing anything in which the beard would interfere. He certainly would have been the winner in the contest of the "Brothers of the Brush".



HENRY B. A. VANDERHAMM



Henry B. A. VanderHamm, a tailor by trade lived in Dockhorn, Germany. In the year 1856, he was united in marriage to

Christina Julfs. The following year, they emigrated to America, making their home on a farm near Dixon, Ill. Seven years later, they moved to Monticello, Iowa and in 1873 the family moved to Reading Twp. He was a charter member of St. Johns Lutheran Church which was founded in 1875.

HENRY VLOTHO, SR.

Henry Vlotho, Sr. was born 1853 at Guttenberg, Iowa. In 1873, he together with a few others wended their way west and where he hired out to the sainted Henry Kluter. He returned home for the winter months and in the spring of 1880, he returned, bringing his father with him who bought the quarter section of land now occupied by Orville Vlotho (grandson). This piece of land Henry tilled, while he was making his home with his brother-in-law, G. A. Darling, who had moved here in 1877. The fall of 1880, Henry decided to establish his own hearth, so he returned to Guttenberg to get a helpmate. He married Emilie Dittmer Feb. 17, 1881. They lived on the farm until they both died, Mrs. Vlotho in 1911 and he in 1928.

Ancestors of Henry Vlotho still living are: Mrs. R. H. Ellts, Gustave Vlotho of LeMars, Mrs. Hugo Wellnitz, Mr. Henry Vlotho, Raymond Vlotho. Grandchildren around Ireton are: Orville and Emery Vlotho, Marlin Ellts, Mrs. Lloyd Mueller and Mrs. Walter VanderHamm.

JOHN VLOTHO, JR.

John Vlotho, Jr. one of the three oldest businessmen still living in Ireton was born on a farm east of Ireton, July 30, 1890. He was the son of the late John and Augusta Vlotho, early pioneers settling here in 1884. There he grew up and went to town when his people moved here Feb. 1, 1907. They lived in the home now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson. Later, they moved to a home in the southwest part of town. That first year, John was employed by his uncle, Fred Vlotho, who ran the Chicago Cash Store on the corner where the Skelly Station recently stood but he had worked with his father when the Reading Twp. Telephone Association was incorporated, so when D. A. Wheeler started telephone work in 1908, John went to work for him. In the spring of 1909, he and his buddy, Milton Miller attended the Northwest Auto School in Omaha. That fall, he opened up the automobile garage in Ireton, probably the only one in the county. His first shop was where Lila's Beauty Shop now is. In 1912, he moved to the new building now

housing the Schmitz Implement Co. He sold this to Ekdom Bros. in 1944. Here he operated a garage and was one of the first to have a Ford agency of the famous model T Ford. He was the manager of the Ireton Electric Light and Power Co. in 1922 and general manager of the Ireton Rural Telephone Ass'n. in 1924 and remained with them until he retired in 1952. He is a land broker, Notary Public and agent for an insurance company.



On July 3, 1913 he married Hattie Nanninga, daughter of the late Fred and Hannah Nanninga. They spent the first three years in the home now owned by Mrs. Emma VanderHamm but in 1916, they moved to the home they built and where they still live



Mrs. Vlotho must have been very courageous because she was the first lady auto driver in the county. He joined the fire department in 1911 and has been their secretary and treasurer since 1942. He also was a councilman from 1936 to 1946, when he was elected Mayor of Ireton, serving several terms. He has also been secretary of Pleasant Hill Cemetery since 1940.



MR. AND MRS. R. A. ZIMMERMAN

One of the well known citizens of earlier years was R. A. Zimmerman. He was born in Freiburg, Osfriesland, Germany Nov. 6, 1853.

With his family, he came to Alton, Ill. in 1853 and at the outbreak of the Civil War, he worked for the government in St. Louis making harness. He married Gertrude Garrrels at Nokomis, Ill. in 1871. With his growing family of children, he came to Ireton in 1884 and built the second fair-sized house in the young town, where he lived until his death in 1941. His daughter continues to live in the same home. His wife died in 1929. When he first settled in Ireton, he ran a small dry goods store and he also ran a hardware store for many years. He was a booster for Ireton and watched it grow with

great interest. As he was a man of keen judgement, he acquired several farms and considerable property in town. One son, John, and two daughters, Mrs. Moeller and Mrs. Herman Hagge are deceased. Three daughters are living: Mrs. A. Niehaus of Fairmont, Minn., Mrs. C. Struck and Miss Hannah Zimmerman, all living in Ireton.



1936976

PRESENT RESIDENTS WHO HAVE CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY BY THE END OF 1961

MR. AND MRS. L. D. SATTERLEE	65 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. R. S. MILLER	60 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. JOHN TOENJES	55 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. CHRIS BUSHBY	53 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. HARRY JOHNSON	53 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. J. R. KARR	52 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. LIGE MARS	52 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. ALVIN WHITE	52 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. ORA GRAU	51 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. ED MULDER	51 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. PAUL ANEMA	50 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. HENRY BRAAKS	50 YEARS
MR. AND MRS. B. T. BAY	50 YEARS

OUR SENIOR CITIZENS



Ireton's oldest resident, Mrs. Louisa Bertram. Born 1870 at Guttenburg, Iowa, came to Ireton when she was 2 years old and lived in a sod house and also herded cattle. She married Charles Bertram in 1894 and had 2 sons and one daughter.



Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Satterlee. Mr. Loren Satterlee was born May 27, 1873 near Ireton. He operated a funeral home and furniture store for many years. He married in 1896 and they had two sons and one daughter. Mrs. Hulda Satterlee was born August 14, 1875 and has made Ireton her home for many years. She has been married 65 years.



Mr. R.S. Miller was born in Illinois in 1874 and came to the Ireton vicinity at the age of 10, residing on a farm. They moved into Ireton in 1944. They have two boys and three girls.

Mary Coombs was born in 1882 in Tama County, Iowa. Came to Ireton vicinity in 1883. Married R.S. Miller in 1901.



Mr. Henry Johnson was born in Germany in 1877. Came to America and Ireton at the age of 12 and has since made his home here. Married Hattie Daniels at Revillo, S.D. in 1907. Children - 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Mr. Wm. Dittmer was born at Guttensburg, in 1873 and married Anna Fredlake of Guttensburg in 1898. Lived on a farm northeast of Ireton. Moved to town in 1949 where he still resides. Children - 1 daughter and 2 sons.



Mrs. George Bartlett was born in 1878 in the Netherlands, Holland. Came to the U. S. at the age of 4. Married in 1896 to George Bartlett. Children - 4 sons and 3 daughters.

Mrs. Wm. Taylor, born 1880 at Hanover, Illinois. She came to Ireton in 1884 and married in 1903. Children - two boys and one daughter.



Mrs. Mary Sinkey was born in Orange City in 1878 and married Peter Sinkey of Ireton and has resided in her present home since her marriage. Children - 1 son and 3 daughters.

Mrs. Lou Twillman was born in Chicago, Ill. in 1880 and came to this locality in 1890. She married Wm. Twillman in 1903 and moved to the town of Ireton in 1912. Children - one son.



Mrs. L.C. Opdahl was born in 1890 in Polk County, Iowa and married Lorentz Opdahl in 1902 at which time they moved to the Ireton vicinity. Children - 4 sons and 3 daughters.

Mrs. Catherine Ricklefs was born in 1880 in Germany and came to this country in 1886. She married Herman Ricklefs in 1900. Children - 6 daughters and one son.



Mr. Hugo Wellnitz was born at Mt. Olive, Ill. in 1881 and came to Ireton vicinity in 1902. Married Clara Vlotho in 1906 and moved into Ireton in 1942. Children - one daughter.

Mr. John Pronk was born in the Netherlands, Holland in 1877 and came to the U.S. in 1886. Lived in this locality until 1929 when he moved to Ireton where he still resides.



Mr. Wm. Meier was born in 1880 in Illinois and came to Ireton in 1914 and worked on highway and road construction for 25 years. Has resided in Ireton since 1914.

Mr. Mike Tierman was born in 1879 in Dalton City, Ill. and moved to LeMars in 1881 and to the Ireton vicinity in 1886 where he still lives.



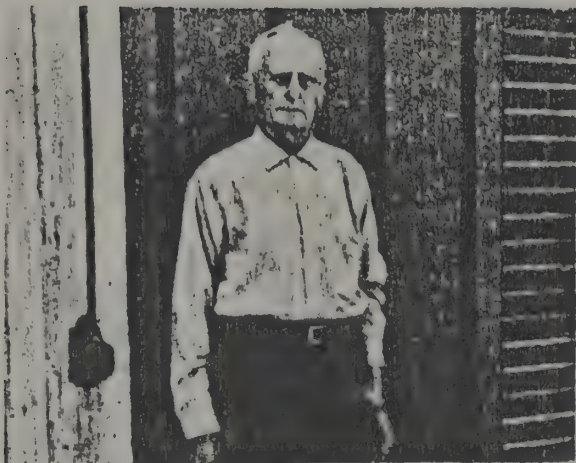
Mr. Henry Braaks was born in Pewsum, Germany in 1881 and came to the United States in 1887. He married Anna Amen in 1910. He has been a blacksmith in Ireton for many years. Children - 2 sons and 3 daughters.



Mrs. Angie Ferguson was born Angeline Elder in 1874 in a log cabin near Ireton. She married Jason Ferguson in 1903 and was a school teacher for 21 years. Children - 2 sons and 2 daughters.



Mr. Henry Franke was born in 1875 in West Branch Township. Married in 1901 to Lydia Siege and moved to the present home northeast of Ireton in 1911. Children - two sons.



Mr. Warren Earl. Born in 1879 in Washington Township. He now lives with his daughter on the old homestead. Children - one son and one daughter.



Mrs. Marie McCrory was born in 1875 in Denmark and came to Ireton before her 16th birthday. She married Charles McCrory in 1904 and moved to Ireton in 1917. Children - 1 son and 3 daughters.



Mrs. Fred (Lena) Parker was born in Nov. 3, 1876. She came to Ireton as a small child. She now resides in Des Moines at the home of a niece, Mrs. Emil Swanson.



Mr. John Toenjes was born in 1877 at Monticello, Iowa and married in 1906. They lived on a farm and moved into Ireton several years ago. Children - 3 sons and 2 daughters.

Mrs. Mary Toenjes was born in 1885 in Reading Township near Ireton. They are both residing in Ireton now.



Fred Franke was born on July 4, 1839 in Hanover, Germany and emigrated to Clayton County, Iowa at the age of 16. He was married to Mrs. Mary Dunve and in 1872 came to Sioux County.

DID YOU KNOW ?

THAT a jail for Ireton was ordered built in the early months of 1893, size 12x14x8, made by spiking 2x6s together with a partition making one room 8x12 and one room 6x12 with a grating in the partition and with two windows and two doors?

THAT when Morningside College was planned, Ireton was considered very strongly as a site for it?

THAT the recorder of town minutes was authorized to procure a policeman's club and a pair of handcuffs just before the 4th of July, 1893? No record of their ever being used has been found at that time.

THAT we had a curfew established by Ordinance #23, dated November 1898. When a bell would ring, at 8 p.m. during the months of Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., and at 9 p.m. during the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September and October, all persons or minors of the age of seventeen or under to leave, at once, the streets, alleys or public grounds and repair to their homes.

THAT a clipping from a New York paper tells that Ireton, a small town in northwest Iowa had nerve enough to put on a bull fight about 1908? "The only town in the U.S. that had ever had the guts to do it", the paper said.

THAT in April, 1896, a street commissioner purchased a sufficient amount of oak posts and iron chains for use as hitching posts on streets? Eighty posts were purchased.

THAT in May, 1896, the street commissioner purchased 24 vapor street lamps (gasoline)?

THAT a ball team composed of men between the ages of 35 and 75 was formed to decide the supremacy of the town's east side or west side? The west side won. The thought that there might be a possibility of "bicycle ball" next was recorded.

THAT Mrs. Emma Lindenman Cooper was the first woman in Sioux County to hold the office of Foreman of the Grand Jury? She was drawn on the panel all four sessions of that year.



OUR WAR VETERANS WHO HAVE PASSED ON

CIVIL WAR

P. Baker
L.M. Black
W.B. Burrigh
Wm. Bushby
Chaplain Jesse Cole
Jas. Cottrill
H. Davidson
E.J. Earll
John C. Emery
James Everhart
Porter Fasburg
Alfred Fisher
C. Follett
B.O. Fosburg
Frederick Franke
E. French
Richard Garrett
Joe Hardacre
Charles Hennrich
Francis Kidson
I. Knowlton
Henry H. Lantz
W.A. Morgan
A. Morrison
F.O. Parker
J.W. Satterlee
A. Sherman
Martin Suter
C. Tarbox
John Taylor
James Thomas
Philo Warfiels
Henry J. Welch
S. Wells
D.E. Wing
DeForrest Woodford
Mr. Zimmer

WORLD WAR I

Edward Bertram
Paul Blemers
Edward R. Brown
Geo Carter
T.A. McCaughan
Fred Dannenbring
Elmer Dittmer
Henry Elts
William Garner Flood
Isaac Goin
Robert Greigg
Edward J. Hilton
Fred Jahn
Geo. Johnson
H. Johnson
Robert S. Johnson
Jimmie Jones
Jake Levering
H. Luschen
Charles McCrory
William Miller
George A. Morrison
Charles Reid
Rodney Lee Reid
George Rickleffs
LeRoy Rolfs
Ernest Schmidt
Edward Shoemaker
Robert VanderHamm

WORLD WAR II

Carl W. Baack
Chas. Bertram
Robert Cooper
Howard Dirks
Harold Marlenau
Henry W. Ommen
Edwin Onken
Theodore Snelder
Glenn Van Engen

KOREAN WAR

Marlin Walraven

BUSINESS PLACES AS THEY WERE YESTERDAY



Looking north on Main Street



Looking south on Main St. from the depot



Looking north on Main St. from the Sinkey Garage corner. This is about the same picture as above, years later



Looking south on Main St. from the Eilers' Farm Store corner. This is about the same picture as above, years later.



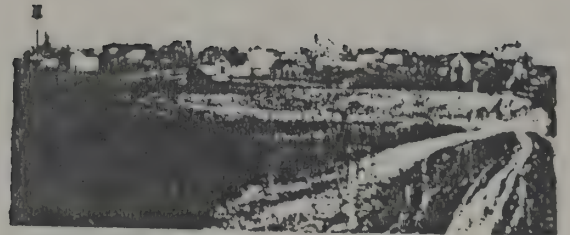
Toot - Toot



The old hitching posts



Looking west from the Sinkey Garage corner. The building in the foreground is where the Sinkey Garage now stands.



Looking west at Ireton from a spot now occupied by Mrs. Alice Wells' home.



Looking west at Ireton from a spot in front of where the school now stands.



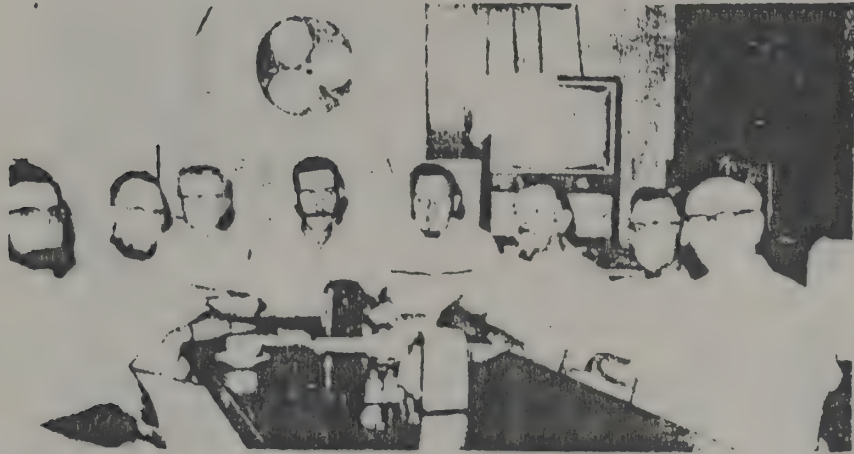
Gay Young Blades: Randall Karr, Robert Miller and James Taylor

BUSINESS PLACES AS THEY ARE TODAY





JUBILEE PLANNING COMMITTEE



P.J. Juffer, Jack Ping, G.T. Juffer, Leonard Feldhacker, Jack Schmitz, Louis Braaks, Norman Marienau, L.A. Goodmanson, R.A. Herwynen (not pictured).



Elvira Kading, Erma Eilts, Velda Vander Hamm, Beatrice Ramhorst, Luella Karr, Jean Eilts.

PRINCE AND PRINCESS CANDIDATES

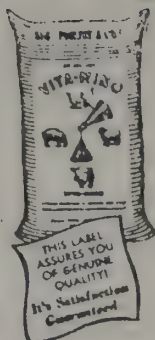


Kay Houlton, Patty Peters, Jean Elts, Marsha DeBoer, Adriana Vellinga, Myrna Richardson, Drenda Karr (not pictured).



Back Row - Royce Toenjes, Dale Walker, Henry Wynia, Ivan VanRoekel.

Front Row - Rodney Vellinga, Bob Imray, Donald Jasper, Leland VanderHamm, Denny Müller, Alan Liston, Allan Mueller (not pictured).



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AND

Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Company

BEST WISHES

ON YOUR JUBILEE

OSCEOLA COUNTY CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION
DON GREGG, *Manager*

PHONE
27

SIBLEY
IOWA

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on Your 75th Anniversary
From
M & M LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS CO.



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BLACK X is a feed additive with unusual properties. It is not a drug, it is not a mineral. It is an organic source of EFA (essential fatty acids), amino acids and has dispersion properties.

M & M MIN-A-MIX-12 is a mineral feed for cattle containing 12% Phosphorus with 100% Availability. It is a quality controlled mineral feed especially formulated for your mineral requirements.



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EAGLE GROVE, IOWA Phone 22

Local Representative

NORMAN MARIENAU

Ireton, Iowa

Phone 2501

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HISTORICAL BUILDING

DES MOINES 19, IOWA

THE HISTORY OF THE

INDIAN NATIONS

IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS

AND

THEIR PRESENT STATE

AND PROSPECT

